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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-95-087* *5 May 1995*

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## Arab-Israeli Talks

### Syria Accuses Israel of Seeking 'Secret Talks'

*MM0405144595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 May 95 p 3*

[Reports by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Amman, and agencies in occupied Jerusalem: "Syria Accuses Israel of Seeking Secret Talks and Defective Agreements."]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A senior Syrian official yesterday accused Israel of continuing to seek secret talks with Syria. He said that his country "believes in real peace, the only thing capable of ending conflicts and wars in the Middle East. That is why Syria sees nothing in secret talks that would enhance the peace process. In fact, the opposite is true because Syria is known never to retreat from its fundamental positions."

This Syrian charge comes after a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who will visit Washington next Friday, in which he said that the problem with Syria is its rejection of separate secret talks.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the Syrian official said: "Because Israel wants to eschew the Security Council resolutions and the principle of full withdrawal, it is seeking secret talks with Syria with the aim of concluding defective agreements like the agreements reached with the Palestinians in Oslo."

The Syrian official added: "Secret talks are not only pointless and futile, they are harmful because they constitute a deviation from the principles of the Madrid conference and they exclude the U.S. role which is supposed to be a positive and reactivating role when the negotiations stumble, and they are always stumbling because of Israeli intransigence."

The source also said: Syria has nothing to hide in the negotiations. Its demands are clear and legitimate. It does not need secret and dark rooms. Syria insists on equal security arrangements because peace cannot be attained and cannot prevail without security for all.

In Amman, a Jordanian political source has stated that a major breakthrough will occur in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations very soon.

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Syrian and Israeli sides will this month reach a joint "agreement of understanding" defining the principles and objectives that would govern the security arrangements on both sides of the borders after Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, now that Israel has agreed to equal measures on both sides.

The source revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that during the "al-'Aqabah summit" last Monday, Rabin briefed King Husayn on some new Israeli ideas to be submitted to the U.S. Administration during Rabin's forthcoming visit to Washington.

The source said that King Husayn expressed profound satisfaction with these ideas which could result in tangible progress in the peace process in the region.

The Jordanian source expected U.S. Secretary of State Christopher Warren to visit the region after 'Id al-Adha. [passage omitted]

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Arab League Condemns Turkish Remarks on Border

*JN0405200495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 May (INA)—The Arab League today warned against the negative repercussions of the Turkish statements that called for a redrawing of the borders with Iraq, stressing its adherence to the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

In a statement, the General Secretariat of the Arab League strongly regretted the statement made by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, in which he demanded a redrawing of the Turkish-Iraqi borders on the pretext that such a development would prevent the infiltration of Kurdish rebels from northern Iraq, and claimed that the Iraqi Mosul area belongs to Turkey.

The statement added: The General Secretariat warns against the consequences of such statements, which contravene the rules and principles of international law. Moreover, such statements cannot promote Arab-Turkish relations, nor can they promote Arab or Turkish interests for that matter.

The General Secretariat hoped that no allegations aggravating regional tension will be made, and underlined its backing and support for the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

The day before yesterday, Demirel declared that the borderline must be redrawn in such a way as to make it go through the versants of mountains inside Iraqi territory in order to prevent the infiltration of the banned Kurdish Workers Party elements.

### UMA Official on Egyptian Request, Libyan Position

*NC0505080695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 5 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers, 5 May (MENA)—Muhammad 'Amamu, secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], has stated that Egypt's request to join the UMA is being studied and will be submitted to the leaders of the five member countries during their next summit, slated to be held in Algiers at the end of the year.

In an interview with MENA's correspondent in Algiers, 'Amamu said: After Egypt submitted an official request to join the UMA as an observer, and after Egypt's

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Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended the UMA foreign ministers meeting last November in Algiers, we needed to go through the necessary legal procedures of the Egyptian request to prepare for what the leaders of the Union must review. He pointed out that the resolutions fall within the jurisdiction of the Union's presidential council. [passage omitted]

'Amamu denied there were differences among the UMA countries and said that Libya refused to chair the current term of the Union after the end of the Algerian term because of the siege imposed on it, not because of any conflict with the other members. He pointed out that had there been any conflict, Libya would not have attended the latest meeting of the follow-up committee, which was held during the past two days in Algiers.

'Amamu pointed out that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has not attended the UMA summit since 1992 as a result of the ban imposed on his country. He affirmed that this ban has not harmed Libya alone, but all the countries neighboring it.

He said the Western ban on Libya also harmed the Union's activities because of what Libya is being subjected to, be it in the field of joint Arab action or the European Union.

He added that the secretary of the General People's Committee for Arab Maghreb Union Affairs, during the UMA foreign ministers meeting in Algeria, said his country refused to chair the Union because of these circumstances. He also stated his country's concern over maintaining the Union's march and securing everything that will help this march progress. [passage omitted]

## Palestinian Affairs

### Jihad Criticizes U.S. 'Terrorist' Embargo on Iran

*NC0405185495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad in Palestine today strongly criticized the U.S. decision to impose a trade embargo on Iraq, describing it as a terrorist decision.

A statement issued by the movement noted that the U.S. decision is a terrorist measure par excellence and an attempt to impose the logic of power and hegemony not only against Iran, the Islamic states, and the oppressive people, but also the entire world countries which the United States is trying by force and coercion to enlist into following the unjust U.S. campaign.

The statement added that the U.S. decision shows the influence that the world Zionist quarters and lobby holds over the U.S. decision. The statement urged the Islamic ulema to issue fatwas [Islamic legal rulings] calling on the Islamic world to boycott U.S. products in response to the U.S. decision against Iran.

### 'Arafat Demands Urgent Jerusalem Committee Meeting

*JN0405133995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has demanded the convening of an urgent meeting of the Islamic Jerusalem Committee to discuss the confiscation of Palestinian lands in the holy city [of Jerusalem] and settlement expansion.

President 'Arafat demanded this in a telephone conversation he initiated with the Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee. During the conversation, President 'Arafat stressed the need to discuss this serious issue with the Organization of Islamic Conference.

### 'Arafat Approves Telecommunications Formation

*JN0405191695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 May 95*

[Report by Salim al-Za'nun from Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has approved the formation of the first international telecommunications company in Palestine. It will be named the Palestine Telecommunications Company. This has been declared by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, at a news conference he held today at the ministry headquarters in Gaza. Dr. Sha'th said that this company, with overall investment amounting to $600 million, will set up 600,000 fixed telephone lines and 200,000 mobile telephones in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This huge project, he said, will be carried out by Palestinian companies with a long history of investment abroad. Those companies are the Palestine Development and Investment Company, the al-'Aqqad Development Group, and the Arab Bank. The project will be implemented within 10 years.

Dr. Sha'th, who expressed happiness with this project, stressed that citizens will witness considerable progress in the field of telecommunications within the next five months. He added that the project will employ thousands of Palestinian workers.

The planning and international cooperation minister said: Our plan aims at achieving Palestinian independence, building national institutions, and encouraging Palestinian investors.

Munib al-Masri, chairman of the board of directors of the Palestine Development and Investment Company, said the company has completed all studies to establish a Palestine stock market at the request of National Authority [NA]. Al-Masri noted that his company seeks to establish a power generation project in NA areas at a cost of $150 million.

The NA last week signed an agreement to build a Marriott Hotel on the Gaza beach, a power generator,

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and a desalination station, using the most up-to-date international technology. Dr. Sha'th said this project will employ 4,000 workers.

### Hamas Protests Authority's Arrest Campaign

*JN0205185795 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1650 GMT 2 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, issued a statement today, saying: O masses of our people: You are now experiencing a host of incongruities and unthinkable developments. You have seen the [Palestinian] Authority pouncing on the chaste mujahidin of the people to put them in jail and subject them to the most heinous forms of torture, thus surpassing the torture carried out by Jewish occupiers. This authority is scaring innocent children at night.

In its statement, Hamas added: We are demonstrating patience over this ordeal to thwart the occupiers' schemes. This is not a manifestation of weakness at all, for we have hundreds of potential heroic martyrs who are ready to serve as suicide bombers.

Concluding its statement, Hamas urged all sensible figures within the Palestinian people, all those who are eager to safeguard the Palestinian people's unity and promote their cause, and all honorable persons to come to the rescue of this people before things get out of control. For then, it might be too late.

### PFLP, DFLP Statement Denounces Authority's Measures

*JN0205182095 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1655 GMT 2 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] On the first anniversary of the Cairo agreement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestinian [DFLP] have issued a denunciatory statement, reviewing the Zionist measures and practices targeting land and man that came about in the aftermath of this agreement.

The statement said: Now that one year has passed since the signing of the Cairo agreement, the crisis plaguing the agreement is being aggravated. This agreement has given the Zionist enemy the chance to build the so-called security bypass roads, taking advantage of a provision enshrined in the agreement that provided for the creation of special roads to be used by settlers in the Gaza Strip. This agreement has condoned the Judaization of Jerusalem and settlement expansion, not to mention the closure of Jerusalem. Since the signing of this agreement, the acts of premeditated killing targeting our people on the streets, in interrogation cells, and in detention centers have increased. Worse still, the possibility of releasing detainees is now remote.

The statement issued by the PFLP and DFLP added: This crisis has been further aggravated by the predicament experienced by the 'Arafatist authority, which is turning, day in and day out, into a tool manipulated by the Zionist entity against our people. It is being used to protect the security of this entity and that of its soldiers and settlers from the ongoing resistance operations.

The PFLP and DFLP called for efforts to combat the Judaization of Jerusalem, to halt settlement activities, and to bring about the release of all the prisoners held in the jails of the enemy and the 'Arafatist authority. They called for concerted efforts to protect basic liberties, and urged a multifaceted and stepped-up struggle against the enemy on all levels.

### Court Sentences 4 for Torching Israeli Fields

*TA0405103295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The special military court in Gaza imposed a six-month sentence on four residents of Bayt Hanun after convicting them of setting fire to Israeli fields in the Erez area.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Damir organization for human rights in the Gaza Strip, identified with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, sharply attacked the establishment of the special military tribunal. A manifesto issued by the organization said that the court often hands down judgments without allowing the defendants to be present, without giving them the right to defend themselves, and without a right of appeal. Damir called on human rights organizations around the world to work for abolishing the special court set up by 'Arafat.

### 'Abd-al-Shafi on Current Issues, Confiscation

*JN0405203295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 4 May 95*

[Telephone Interview with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Kamal Tarabayh in the studio on 4 May; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Tarabayh] How do you evaluate the first year of Palestinian autonomy?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We must view this question within what we are looking forward to in terms of the final status. The Palestinian people are aspiring to realize their basic rights; namely, self- determination and the establishment of an independent state. The current phase, which is the first, is the autonomy phase. It is true that the Israeli forces withdrew from populated areas in cities and refugee camps. However, these forces continue to control a large area of the Gaza Strip. Therefore, a situation has arisen whereby we have Palestinian cantons within the framework of Israeli sovereignty and occupation in the autonomous areas of Jericho and Gaza. Despite the Oslo agreement and the peace process concept, Israel continues to establish settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem. This contradicts the concept of the peace process, the concept that there will be final negotiations to determine the final status of the occupied territories.

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This settlement activity decides the situation in Israel's interest once and for all. Therefore, one is not satisfied with what goes on.

On another level, the performance of the Palestinian Authority in the five domains in which it has been given power leaves much to be desired. It calls for great deal of reservation. For its part, Israel does not help. The repeated closures of the Gaza Strip has made the situation much worse. Therefore, the situation is not satisfactory and the citizens are not relieved. [passage omitted]

[Tarabayh] Israel has continued to confiscate Arab land. Its latest decision has been to confiscate dozens of hectartes from the occupied east Jerusalem area. Do you think that this trend will stop or do you think that the Palestinian Authority is capable of confronting and foiling this confiscation?

['Abd-al-Shafi] First of all, I do not believe that Israel will stop because since the birth of the Zionist movement, Israel has been claiming that the Palestinian territory is Israeli territory. Since the 1967 occupation began, Israel has been adhering to this claim and the settlements have been based on this claim despite the denunciation of this settlement activity by the Security Council and the world public opinion which considers it an obstacle to peace in addition to being illegal and illegitimate.

[Tarabayh] This also threatens to undermine the entire peace process and all the agreements signed so far?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes. In fact, the impasse in the Washington negotiations centered on this particular point. The Palestinian position was that the settlements should stop so the negotiating process will have a meaning. In fact the Oslo agreement did not deal firmly with this issue. However, there is nothing in the Oslo agreement that allows Israel to continue settlement building. Israel has not stopped after the Oslo agreement and is now talking openly about the settlements in areas it wants to usurp in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

[Tarabayh] You are aware that the United States is demanding a total trade ban on Iran. How do you view this?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is not surprising. This is a biased and lopsided attitude and is within the U.S. global policy. This is regrettable and we have become accustomed to this. The United States is motivated by narrow considerations that are of interest to it and its allies. We cannot say that these measures are based on the principles of justice and right. [passage omitted]

[Tarabayh] You must be reading in the media about the French presidential elections and the French democratic experiment. Do you think that the Palestinian authority will one day have the same democratic experiment within the same democratic atmosphere?

['Abd-al-Shafi] That is what we hope for and aspire to. I would like to say that what was mentioned about the elections in the Oslo agreement is one of the main loopholes in the agreement. The agreement gives Israel the right to interfere and have a say. In my view this is a violation of our right to self-determination because the elections are part of our right to self-determination. Because it was given a role, Israel now insists that east Jerusalem's inhabitants must have a status that is different from that of the other Palestinians. This is, of course, unacceptable. Therefore, I doubt that the elections will be held within a short time unless Israel concedes this demand.

[Tarabayh] You have been trying to form a front or an opposition political grouping that upholds democracy as the only and basic solution for the Palestinian problems. What happened to this front or grouping and what are the forces or figures involved?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We are a group of Palestinians in the occupied areas representing various trends—academicians, businessmen, workers. We participating in this endeavor to established what we call a Democratic Construction Movement in the Palestinian society. This movement will not be an opposition movement and will not be a party. We have now realized that the political question or the suffering of the Palestinian people will not be solved soon. Frustration and suffering are rife in Palestinian society. Therefore, the situation must be dealt with in a persevering manner, dealing with issues from the roots without any impatience and without jumping over things. Naturally, we emphasize that the democratic method is a basic issue in this path. Therefore, the Movement will not be one of opposition in the sense of party opposition. However, the movement will take an objective, positive stand toward the Palestinian Authority's performance, meaning that we will approve the measures of this authority if they are positive, and serve the public. We will praise such measures. On the other hand, if there is a negative policy, we will oppose it and point out its negative aspects. We will continue to spread democratic education and will demand the exercise of democracy in all fields. We will also take interest in the election issue.

[Tarabayh] Meaning that the Democratic Construction Movement will join the battle for local government council elections?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, if the elections are held on a democratic basis, that they are legislative elections realizing an elected Palestinian authority.

## South Asian Regional Affairs

### Further on SAARC Delhi Declaration

*BK0405163495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1520 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The New Delhi SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit ended this morning with a call to eliminate all forms of

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terrorism from the region. The leaders of the seven-member countries described the South Asia Preferential Trade Arrangement, SAPTA, as the beginning of a new era of regional cooperation. They also opposed introduction of any trade barriers under the guise of social and environmental clauses.

The Delhi Declaration adopted at the end of the summit directed the member states to ratify the SAPTA by the year end. It welcomed the coming into being of the World Trade Organization [WTO] and called upon countries not to initiate unilateral measures in violation of the WTO.

The declaration asked the member states to give effect to the SAARC Convention on suppression of terrorism and stressed the need for eliminating drug trafficking from the region.

Reaffirming the commitment of the member countries to eradicate poverty from the region by the year 2002, the declaration calls for encouraging decentralization and local self-governance. The summit decided to observe 1995 as the SAARC year of poverty eradication.

The declaration said while there is need to deregulate markets to promote sustained economic growth, negative features of such market forces will have to be taken care of to make them poor-friendly.

The member countries also reiterated their commitment to the principles of the United Nations calling for democratization of the world body. They urged the conference on disarmament to negotiate an international convention prohibiting the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons and to undertake negotiations for their complete elimination within a time-bound framework.

The joint declaration underlined the urgency of addressing the issue of gender disparity and directed the member states to evolve concrete programs for removing illiteracy. Next year will be observed as the SAARC year of literacy.

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## Algeria

### Authorities Report Five Foreigners Murdered

*NC0505092895 Paris AFP in English 0922 GMT 5 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, May 5 (AFP)—An Algerian and five foreigners—two French, a Briton, a Canadian and a Tunisian—were murdered in southern Algeria early Friday [5 May], authorities said.

The five foreigners were identified as two French nationals, a Canadian, a Briton and a Tunisian. They were killed in an industrial zone in the town of Ghardaia, security services said.

### Spokesman Holds News Conference on Privatization Bill

*LD0405173795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ahmed Attaf, government official spokesman and official in charge of Maghreb Affairs, held a news conference this afternoon that he devoted to the results reached yesterday following the meeting of the triad [government, Union of Algerian Workers, and employers] in Algiers.

Mr. Attaf presented a list of the establishments that will be included in the process. He said that privatization will not be at the expense of the workers, as the latter can purchase 30 percent of the shares of the establishments put up for sale. Mr. Attaf also said that the process will be implemented in total transparency, as the media will play a significant role in providing information about the privatization process.

Mr. Attaf added that the privatization policy was based on gradual progress, and the time criteria may be gauged in years in accordance with each establishment's preparation to enter into the process. A committee will prepare the dossier of each establishment capable of being privatized. The committee will be chaired by a judge and a representative from the audit council and a member from the Treasury and the general finance inspectorate, as well as a trade union member and a member from the competent ministry. [passage omitted]

According to the plan, the sectors involved in the privatization include construction, public works, tourism, trade, and small- and medium-sized establishments. The second dossier in the work of the triad concerning the social contract has been postponed to another meeting with the aim to discuss it more fully. [passage omitted]

## Egypt

### Musa Opposes 'Threats' to Iraqi Territories

*NC0505102595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0957 GMT 5 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has restated Egyptian opposition to any encroachment on Arab territorial integrity, including that of Iraq.

In remarks today, the foreign minister warned the Arab world of the challenges it is facing, including threats to Arab territories. Stating that Egypt's position is firm regarding the need to safeguard Arab territories and sovereignty, he said this applies in every case, whether the threat is to northern Iraqi territories or southern Sudanese territories.

Turkish newspapers recently attributed remarks to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel in which he called for redrawing Turkey's southern border with Iraq on the grounds that this is necessary to fight terrorism.

### Cairo Rejects Turkish Idea To Alter Iraq Border

*MM0405152395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 May 95 p 7*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Egypt has expressed its astonishment at the statements made the day before yesterday by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, in which he announced that his country's border with Iraq should be altered, and that the Iraqi city of Mosul belongs to Turkey. An Egyptian official has denied to AL-HAYAH that this issue was raised by the Turks in any talks with Egypt at any level, despite the existence of a comprehensive political coordination agreement signed in Ankara in February 1992 by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. The official defined Egypt's position on Demirel's statements as follows: "Complete rejection of President Demirel's statement.... Such statements do not help to achieve stability and security in the Gulf region and lead to the triggering of a crisis whose scale is not known.... We are surprised by the timing of the Turkish position."

The official said: "The talk about historic rights to Arab territories is an old tune," urging Ankara to "refrain from talking about historic rights," warning against "harming Iraqi territorial integrity," and stressing the importance of working for "Iraq's territorial and national unity" He also warned against "responding to the Turkish president's statements."

### Paper: Clinton 'Wrong Decision' on Iran Embargo

*NC0405131195 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, May 4 (AFP)—An Egyptian governmental daily on Thursday [4 May] slammed the US decision to slap an economic embargo on Iran as a front to support Israeli interests in the region.

US President Bill Clinton "made the wrong decision at the wrong time and announced it at the wrong place, providing the wrong justifications," AL-JUMHURIYAH said in an editorial.

It added aim of the embargo was "to weaken Moslem Iran for Israel's benefit, so Israel can remain the sole nuclear power in the region to impose peace as it wishes."

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"This is reason enough to sympathize with Iran whatever the political differences between them and us," the paper said.

Iran broke diplomatic ties in 1979 with Egypt for sheltering the deposed Shah, although it maintains an embassy in Cairo.

Clinton announced a ban on US economic ties with Iran at a meeting of the World Jewish Council on Sunday.

Washington accuses Iran of supporting terrorism and seeking to develop nuclear weapons. Tehran denies both charges.

Egypt has not made an official announcement on the US move.

"We are still studying the problem," Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said on Wednesday, adding Egypt had learnt of the move from press reports.

The US "punished Iran as a potential nuclear danger and ignores Israel with its standing nuclear threat," the paper said.

The US also "punishes Iran for terrorism, but doesn't punish Israel for seizing Palestinian lands and breaking Palestinian bones under the nose of peace," it added, referring to an Israeli decision to seize Palestinian lands in East Jerusalem to build homes for Jews.

The choice of venue for the announcement also showed it was made to win the support of American Jews, the paper added.

"Today's Iran is not the Iran of the past," it said.

"Iran has transformed from a source of instability and terrorism to a peaceful intermediate in solving problems between its neighbors."

It highlighted Iran's efforts to solve the Kashmir crisis between Pakistan and India and a joint campaign with Greece to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Egypt has urged the United States to pressure Israel into joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, saying otherwise it will refuse to sign an indefinite renewal of the pact.

### Paper: U.S. 'Double Standards' on Iran, Israel

*NC0505075395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has criticized U.S. pressure on its allies to participate in imposing the trade sanctions declared by U.S. President Bill Clinton on Iran.

In its comment published today the newspaper described the U.S. stance on Iran as rigid, at a time when it does not take a similar position on Israel, which insists on refusing to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and on keeping all its weapons and nuclear bombs despite Washington knowing that this hampers and destroys the Middle East peace process.

The newspaper said that despite some toned-down statements by Washington, supporting Egypt's stance regarding the need for Israel to sign the NPT, U.S. officials have taken no positive stance on this issue. They are not even seriously trying to convince Israel to respond to Egypt's demand, a demand it will not go back on whatever happens.

The newspaper said that in this way Washington is clearly confirming that it still follows the method of applying double standards in every crisis to which Israel is a party.

It said that while we can find excuses for the U.S. stance on Iran, since Iran is trying to realize suspect objectives, we would prefer Washington to take a similar stance regarding the problem of Israel's maintaining a nuclear arsenal that threatens the security and stability of the Middle East region.

### Army Chief on Upgrading Efficiency, U.S. Ties

*NC0405123495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ismailia, 4 May (MENA)—Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, commander general of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, has affirmed that the Egyptian Armed Forces are constantly active and undergoing training. Peace in no way means relaxation; it is a good time to prepare and train the troops and upgrade their efficiency to distinctive levels, he remarked.

Speaking to reporters after attending the 2d Field Army's "Badr- 2" exercise, Tantawi said: We are conducting exercises at all levels and in all formations instead of general maneuvers like "Badr," which were conducted two years ago and cost a lot of money. He added: We will conduct general maneuvers at the level of Badr every three years and we promise that the next maneuvers will be distinctive.

Field Marshal Tantawi added that sweat at the time of peace saves lives and blood at times of war. He urged continuous training, emphasizing the need for exercises to be conducted under conditions identical to that of real battles to guarantee their usefulness to the troops.

The defense minister pointed out that creating a contingency during the exercise conducted today by an artillery unit seeks to test the efficiency of this unit's commander and his ability to adopt the warranted unplanned measures. He added that the unit commander handled the situation very efficiently.

The defense minister said that the participation of the Egyptian-U.S. tank M-1-A-1 and the Egyptian mounted gun 122 in today's exercise was in the context of Egypt's policy to diversify sources of weapons, rely on itself, and help friends. This is a goal we pursue, he said. He added: We hope to manufacture other weapons in Egypt to achieve self-reliance.

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Field Marshal Tantawi explained that the numbers of armed troops differ in times of peace from those of war and that specific ratios are observed in this connection.

He added that maintaining the combat efficiency of the reserves requires their involvement in the Armed Forces exercises in the context of an ideal mobilization plan. He pointed out that the Armed Forces follow a scientific plan for mobilizing the reserves, so that a balance is achieved in terms of numbers between the reserves and active officers.

Tantawi remarked that President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to the United States was one of the most successful ones and that it reflected positively on many areas, including military relations. He pointed out that there is a five-year cooperation plan involving the two countries and that meetings are constantly being held between military officials of both sides. He affirmed that relations are proceeding in the right direction and that the American side is undertaking its commitments.

The defense minister pointed out that the date of his next visit to the United States has not been determined yet, noting that he received an invitation from the U.S. secretary of defense.

Field Marshal Tantawi affirmed that joint exercises between Egypt and the United States are continuing and that they will involve other countries. He pointed out that the "Bright Star" exercises will be conducted soon with the participation of several Arab and European states, in addition to Egypt and the United States.

Tantawi added that the exercise he attended today demonstrated the development our Armed Forces have achieved. He added that the Armed Forces continue to upgrade their combat efficiency.

Asked about criticism from other states that Egypt is magnifying its military power and that this is inconsistent with the peace march, Tantawi replied that peace needs a force to back it and deter whoever tries to abuse it. He added that the call to weaken the Egyptian Army is misleading. We have to maintain a military power capable of deterring at the same time we work for peace, he said.

## State Security Kills 3 'Terrorists' in Cairo

*NC0405145995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] An authoritative source from the Interior Ministry has stated that state security intelligence services today confronted a terrorist group in Madinat al-Salam in Cairo. The group consisted of three people considered to be among the most dangerous fugitive terrorists.

The confrontation resulted in the killing of the three terrorists. The security services also seized a large quantity of weapons and explosives in their hideout.

## Workers' Compensation Claims Against Iraq Viewed

*95LD0053A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 24 Mar 95 pp 16-18*

[Article by Hamdi Rizq: "The Fate of Egyptians' Entitlements in Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To start with, the "yellow card" is what draft workers in Iraq obtain as a trust voucher issued by the Central Bank of Iraq, as a guarantee of their claims upon the Iraqi Government. It is not the end of the matter when we say, "the fate of the claims of the Egyptians with the yellow cards, which amount to $491 million, is still vague." Iraq refuses even to acknowledge them as part of the reparations package overseen by the UN Reparations Committee. It insists that these are funds with a special status, to which the United Nation's resolutions on reparations up to August 1990 may not be applied. It refuses to disburse them, and the Reparations Committee in Egypt's Foreign Ministry is doing all it can through legal channels to establish and enter the Egyptians' rights within the reparations fund at its Geneva headquarters. The question being asked frequently in every Egyptian house, indeed everywhere in Egypt, by peasants and laborers who worked in Iraq, is: When will these yellow cards be redeemed for cash? The answer is not easy or simple, or uncomplicated. Iraq's mere acknowledgment of these entitlements might require, until further notice, a period possibly lasting until the end of the year, when the neutral three-member committee arrives at a final decision in the matter of entering these reparations within the fund. We want the reparations to be disbursed once they are acknowledged. This is required from the outset as an international condition for Iraq's compliance with the UN resolution for it to sell $1.6 billion worth of crude oil, approximately one third of which would go into the reparations fund to satisfy the claims of the injured countries. Among these, Egypt is mentioned first in many articles of the reparations, with these yellow cards that have not been honored yet.

Given the procrastination of the Iraqi side, the question of the yellow cards has become an issue of personal circumstances in Egypt, requiring long and complicated steps, which began promptly after the Gulf War and which continue until the present month, when a whole Egyptian memorandum was submitted, which the three banks with an interest in the case helped to prepare. These were the International Arab African Bank, the Bank of Alexandria, and the Central Bank, in addition to an American office specializing in this sort of case, retained by Egypt for this purpose under the auspices of Ambassador Jilan 'Allam, Assistant Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, and the President of the Egyptian Reparations Committee. The memorandum contained numerous questions directed at the neutral three-member committee looking into the case by the Egyptian side. They are the same questions asked of the Iraqi side, to clarify the facts of the position before the two sides appear on April 19 and 20 before the court to

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present verbal legal arguments, with each side presenting its claims, so that the three arbitrators can issue a judgment at least three months after the proceedings.

I also learned that the Egyptian side responded with first priority of Egyptians in the payout of entitlements and the need for these to be entered into the provisions of the reparations fund in Geneva, as these were funds whose disbursement was halted due to the war. This was in spite of an Iraqi commitment, signed by the prime ministers of both countries in November, stressing the importance of the continued payment of these entitlements at a rate of $15 million every 10 days, with the possibility of doubling them in the future, though they were completely halted due to the war. The Egyptians' entitlements were completely frozen after that.

In this regard, Ambassador Jilan 'Allam told AL-MUSAWWAR that the Egyptian response had reached the three-member committee, in compliance with all the provisions, even those relating to Iraqi laws. An exchange of legal memoranda between the Egyptian and Iraqi sides will take place through the committee, despite the complexity of the verbal arguments, after which the subject will be studied in full, with the mediation of the committee, in a period not to exceed three months, after which the judgment may be issued.

[Rizq] What kind of ruling does Egypt expect?

['Allam] The adding of the $491 million in entitlements due to Egyptian workers to the Egyptian entitlements overseen by the Reparations Committee in Geneva, which the Iraqi side has thus far refused to add in. Its pretext in this regard is that the entitlements have no connection with war damages. It is clear, however, in legal terms, that the halt to the disbursement was attributable to the war, and in accordance with Iraqi decisions taken against the states that did not support its position in the second Gulf War.

[Rizq] If the ruling is in Iraq's favor, what will the yellow card holders do?

['Allam] If that happens, God forbid—and this is very unlikely to happen, because we are demanding our legal rights, and the arbitration committee rules that the UN resolutions on reparations are not applicable to this sum—then these entitlements will become a trust on the part of the Iraqi side. Iraq cannot, under any pretense, or legal support, claim that these entitlements will not be paid.

[Rizq] Why this confidence on the Iraqis' part? They have procrastinated not only in payment but in even acknowledging [their obligation to pay].

['Allam] The Egyptian position is strengthened by many factors:

These funds were deposited in Iraqi banks as a trust, and there is a legal obligation to transfer them in accordance with the laws of Iraq itself. Before the halt in transfers, Iraq was paying nearly $15 million every 10 days.

There is also an agreement signed between the two countries' prime ministers in November 1989 on continuing the disbursement, and even doubling them at the earliest opportunity.

In addition, the Egyptians have Iraqi "yellow drafts" proving their rights, and by extension their natural right to demand those rights.

There are correspondent banks in Egypt, and they have first priority for the first notification of payment and payment orders for these yellow cards, in what is considered Iraqi government confirmation of these entitlement funds, and these banks cannot fall behind in these entitlements or paying them out.

[Rizq] All that is fine, but if Iraq refuses to comply with the "trust" instrument you speak of, what will Egypt do?

['Allam] It will again demand that Iraq pay. Bear in mind that Iraq has never said that it would not pay, though it has asked that these funds not be counted among the reparations being overseen by the UN Reparations Committee. That is a legal battle now being decided in the United Nations with the mediation of the arbitration committee. It took them long months to arrive at this formula and the consent of the UN Secretary General, in spite of the opposition of the Iraqi side.

[Rizq] Were these drafts actually blocked before the demand for compensation, especially as there are many citizens who are illiterate and manual workers, who have submitted no application for compensation?

['Allam] We have made great efforts to collect these reparations and drafts, and in fact we have succeeded in submitting 300,000 claims under the departure demands clause (the yellow cards), 600 death and injury claims, and 100,000 demands under the clause relating to losses, apart from private and government sector losses. The latter sector has very major points compared to individual compensation, should they be confirmed on the UN agenda.

[Rizq] What is the total of the Egyptian entitlements due from Iraq?

['Allam] A very large sum. This is not the time for us to publish the figures, but I may say that the delay in paying the entitlements actually confirmed in the reparations fund in Egypt's favor, which add up to $150 million, as a first disbursement, have not been paid out. That is because there is no liquidity in the fund, as Iraq has refused to comply with the United Nation's resolutions on selling $1.6 billion worth of oil, one third of which would go into the fund to fund these stipulated payments (nearly half a billion dollars of that amount).

[Rizq] How true is it, what people say about Egyptian entitlements being belatedly acknowledged and disbursed as compared to the Western countries' entitlements?

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['Allam] For your information, the compensation committee has begun reviewing reparations at the international level only since November 1994. In that context, Egypt has the status of the country most damaged, with $150 million, which will be doubled next May and October. It is not true that there is preference in the settlement of reparations, but there are legal bases being followed in this regard, and we are not neglecting the rights of Egyptians. We are monitoring, on a daily basis, every place in the world where there are ongoing discussions of these compensations.

## Libya

### Army Changes Said Due to 'Suspicions,' Security

*MM0405144195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 May 95 p 6*

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Salvation Front: Formations in Armed Forces Command"—all quotation marks as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—The National Front for the Salvation of Libya has issued a statement citing its sources in the country as saying that the Libyan regime has made "very important changes vis-a-vis the main posts in the Armed Forces as a result of its concern over the security situation within the Armed Forces and because of the regime's suspicions over the loyalty of the commanders of the various corps, especially those concerned with the regime's security, which are usually headed by officers known for their loyalty to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. As is known, the regime has been consistently making regular changes in leading posts since the October 1993. And recent changes include the following: "Col. Khalifah Ahnish has been appointed armament commander in place of Col. Jum'ah Balniran. Brigadier Abu-al-Qasim al-Qanqa has been appointed commander of the Republican Guard in place of Col. Ahmad 'Awn. It is worth mentioning that Brig. al-Qanqa has previously held the posts of director of military intelligence, commander of the deterrent force, and director of the commander in chief's office. He also held the "post of commander of the Guard Brigade" between 1986 and 1990.

The statement added that Col. Ahmad 'Awn has been appointed director of the operations department. "Col. 'Awn has previously held the post of commander of the military college. He was commander of the Wadi al-Dum base when it was captured by Chadian forces. 'Ali al-Kilbu al-Qadhdhafi has been appointed commander of the security battalion of the Muhammad al-Muqaryif barracks (in Tripoli) in place of Col. al-Barrani Ashkal al-Qadhdhafi, who has been appointed commander of the security units in place of Brigadier 'Ali al-Fituri al-Warfali."

The statement added that Brig. al-Mahdi al-'Arabi has been moved from his post as commander of the popular resistance to commander of the border guard. Brig. Ambirsh is expected to be moved from his post as chief of staff of the popular defense to commander of the popular defense." The statement said that Col. Shu'ayb al-Farjani has been reappointed commander of the Faris battalion in Sabha, and that Brig. al-Rifi 'Ali al-Sharif stays as commander of air defense, and Brig. Ahmad al-Maqsabi as secretary general of the popular committee for defense."

The statement said that, "as is well known, Brig. Abu-al-Qasim al-Qanqa is very close to Col. Khalifah Ahnish and played a prominent role in destroying the coup attempt led by Major 'Umar al-Muhayshi in 1975. There are speculations that his main task in the Republican Guard Brigade will be this time to eliminate the elements belonging to Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud. The Salvation Front has learned that the regime continues to tempt officers to submit their resignations from the Armed Forces."

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## Saudi Arabia

### King Fahd Receives Yemeni Envoy's Credentials

*JN0405101395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab presented his credentials to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Yemen to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the Royal Court in Riyadh yesterday.

The presentation ceremony was attended by Ibrahim al-'Anqari, adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Thunayyan, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Muhammad Nuwaysir, chief of the Royal Court.

## Yemen

### Country Involved in Gulf Developments, Iran, Iraq

*95LH0107A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Feb 95 pp 20-21*

[Article by Walid Abu-Zuhr: "Secrets of Geneva Meeting Between Yemeni Envoy and Saddam Husayn's Brother: Will Barzan al-Takriti Become President of Iraq? 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih Returns to Gulf Via Change in Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "We cannot know well what is happening in the Gulf and what is being planned for this region without carefully following what is happening in Yemen and discovering the secrets of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's game."

By these words an Arab official not from the Gulf surprised the few guests at a private soiree that gathered a few days ago at his home in Paris. The border negotiations between Saudi Arabia and Yemen dominated his remarks.

Throughout the evening this veteran politician seemed certain that the Yemeni president, who has intentionally stolen the spotlight in recent months, weeks, and days, was playing an important and significant role that would gain him a regional and international dimension.

The expert based his analysis on very private information obtained through his extensive contacts, to which he added indications obtained on the scene. He said: "What has been happening in Yemen since last year's civil war, how it ended, and events up to the present are no accident or merely overt maneuvering; they reflect a studied plan whose results and dimensions will soon become visible in conditions in Yemen, in the political situation in the Gulf, and perhaps in international policy toward the region."

So strange and surprising were the official's pronouncements, or rather secrets, that no one ventured to interrupt him before he reached the heart of the matter and revealed this "studied plan" of international dimensions.

To emphasize his point, he seemed eager in his analysis to contradict readings of the situation by many observers, including American officials, who warn of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's hardline attitude and the outcome of Sanaa's attempts to represent the Tehran-Baghdad-Khartoum axis and enter into a extremist fundamentalist pact including the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa to threaten security and stability in the Gulf. He said: "The indications of this axis undoubtedly call for and justify anxiety. Salih's relations with Saddam Husayn are well known, and there still are Iraqi experts in the Yemeni armed forces. The alliance between the Sanaa regime and fundamentalist extremists became stronger after the north-south war and the role played by Shaykh al- Zandani's group. It was no accident that Tehran's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, chose to visit Sanaa in his brief Gulf tour a few months ago. Note that he chose to visit some countries as camouflage to dispel suspicions and so as not arouse the sensitivities and questions that would result from an Iranian visit limited to Yemen. In the closing days of last year, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Sudan and his obvious desire to strengthen his relations with the al-Bashir/ al-Turabi regime drew attention."

The politician added: "It was clear to observers and monitors that all these visits and attempts to cement relations with the countries of the extremist axis surrounding the Gulf and the Red Sea were directed messages. Their pulse coincided with Yemen's escalation with Saudi Arabia and the tensing of conditions on the border between the two countries in another attempt by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to display his ability to play the role of destabilizer and threat in the Gulf."

Borrowing words from former American president [Theodore] Roosevelt to characterize the role of the Yemeni president, the Arab official said that he wanted to "carry a big stick in order to speak softly." He added: "My information is that he donned fundamentalist robes in order to camouflage another more significant role he is playing behind the scenes. He is trying to reap as great a harvest as possible and win cards that will allow him not only to strengthen his internal position and entrench his authority, but also to acquire a position in the Gulf and the region, thereby compensating for what he has lost since he supported the Iraqi position in the Gulf war."

I interrupted my interlocutor: "Do you mean to say that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's alliances with Iran, Sudan, and the extremist fundamentalists fall only under the category of blackmail aimed at the Gulf countries and that he will emerge victorious by these means?"

He replied swiftly: "On the surface it is a matter of blackmail, but underneath it goes further and is more serious. It conceals an integrated scheme that Sanaa has prepared. My information is that Sanaa has presented it to the Americans and is trying to sell it in the European and even the Arab countries."

**Trial Balloons**

—"What scheme?"

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He said: "It may be an exaggeration to speak of a scheme. Let us say that it is still a matter of circulating ideas and trial balloons; however, the stages through which they have passed and the developments they have seen reveal their seriousness. It was further strengthened after the European tour of Yemen's foreign minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Iryani, a tour that significantly led him to the United States late in January.

There was talk of how the American officials whom al-'Iryani met in Washington—the most prominent of them were Martin (Andik), the National Security Council's official responsible for the Middle East and the next American ambassador to Israel, and his successor Mark (Paris), and this gave the visit its security dimension—expressed their disapproval of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Sudan late last year and raised the question of the closeness between Sanaa, Khartoum, and Tehran. However, the real facts were different.

What really happened was that al-'Iryani, despite his toughness, is known for his American relations. Like 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, he well realizes the importance of the Washington card in Sanaa's strategy. If we go back to the recent civil war in Yemen, we can easily see that President Salih is indebted to the American position for his victory over the southerners. Do you remember how the Americans were careful not to bring up Sanaa's relations with Baghdad during that period and ignored the presence of Iraqi experts and pilots alongside the north's forces? Washington even expressed no concern about the mounting role of extremist fundamentalists in the corridors of the Sanaa regime. It was Washington that thwarted the plan for international recognition of the 'Republic of the South.' One can say that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's strength comes not from his relations with Iran, Iraq, or Khartoum, but from the Americans' approval of him. He has enough political acumen to enable him to play with contradictions without overstepping the American red line in the region."

I said: "But what exactly is the new scheme of which you spoke circumspectly, as if you feared to reveal it?"

He replied: "I have learned from trustworthy sources that the most important focus of al-'Iryani's talks in Washington was how Yemen might be brought into the Gulf system and be given an exoneration that would enable 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to polish up his image and mend his position, dependent as it is on the pleasure and aid of the Gulf countries as well as American endorsement. It seems that al-'Iryani returned from the American capital with the conviction that Yemen's return to the Gulf family was a pressing economic and political vital necessity in more than one respect and that the Americans were moving toward combating extremism and containing all its groups. They gave him to understand that Saddam Husayn was a wasted card that would burn anyone who cooperated with it.

My information confirms that al-'Iryani did not object to Yemen's again becoming a factor for stability in the Gulf; however, he preferred to return through the main door and at the highest possible price."

I said: "Is that how one is to understand Sanaa's allusion to the al-Ta'if agreement and to the border problems with Saudi Arabia?"

He said: "No. The price demanded includes a more costly proposal. Sanaa knows that its battle with Saudi Arabia is a losing proposition in terms of the Gulf, the Arab countries, or internationally. The hitherto unrecognized reality requires that one look toward Baghdad. For some time, al-'Iryani has been carrying on active contacts with the Arabs, Europeans, and Americans to promote a deal for normalizing Yemen's relations with the Gulf, the Arabs, and internationally by proposing a solution to the problem of the Iraqi regime acceptable to these circles and leading finally to lifting the sanctions from Baghdad, normalization with Baghdad, and establishing stability in the Gulf."

—"What is this solution?"

"Al-'Iryani has become convinced that a compromise solution to Iraq's crisis with the world can be reached. Faced with the impossibility of toppling Saddam Husayn and his family- and tribe-based regime that thus far has demonstrated an ability for rank tightening and family solidarity with, on the other hand, no credible opposition existing; faced also with the stubborn refusal of the United States to lift the international embargo from Iraq as long as Saddam Husayn is in power, al-'Iryani came out with his proposal based on preserving the regime in Iraq and working to bring about change from within the family."

**Geneva Meeting**

—"How?"

"By playing the card of Saddam's brother, Barzan al-Takriti. At least, this is what is clear thus far from the secret meetings and contacts that have taken place. The last of these was a meeting that took place about three weeks ago in Geneva.

In a private wing of a luxury hotel overlooking Lake Leman, Barzan al-Takriti met that night with a special envoy of the Yemeni minister charged with sounding him out and proposing the idea that Barzan should become president of Iraq.

The information is that the choice of Barzan's name was no accident. The name had been circulated in several Arab and Western capitals, including Washington. Despite his long intelligence history, Barzan has a broad network of contacts in Europe and Western countries, based not only on his diplomatic position in Geneva, but also on his primary responsibility for trade deals and even for most military deals with Iraq and on his supervision of Iraq funds overseas. From this position, Barzan al-Takriti has been able to become the most famous and well-known Iraqi official and the one with the most extensive diplomatic, political, economic, and

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even security relations in the West. He has successfully presented himself as moderate and open. In particular, he has more than once 'condemned' and criticized the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Barzan deserves credit for keeping Iraq's lines of contact with major foreign companies open despite the international embargo, and these companies play the role of a pro-Iraq lobby in their countries. It has been noticed recently that Barzan al-Takriti has intensified his activities and European contacts. He is again making an appearance on certain occasions. Many have come to consider him an acceptable personage. Some Arab circles even see him as the 'lesser evil' and are showing willingness to wager on him."

—"But the most important question is what Barzan said. Is he ready to do battle with his brother Saddam and in particular with 'Udayy, who dreams of succeeding his father?"

"What leaked out of the Geneva meeting is that Barzan was not surprised by the idea, but rather seemed to be living in its atmosphere. You may know better than I that the man's ambitions are so great that his brother Saddam once banished him, taking away all his powers and preventing him from acting as if he were ruler of Iraq.

There are also the temptations that the 'throne' and the position constitute for every person, even someone in the innermost circle. I have information that the Yemeni envoy emerged from the meeting confident and happy and that al-'Iryani resumed his contacts after receiving details of his envoy's talks with Barzan and is continuing them. Had the results of the Geneva meeting not been good and encouraging, everything would have come to a halt."

—"How is the operation going to be staged?"

"Honestly, I don't know yet. Until last week the prevailing impression was that it was still at the stage of trial balloons released in all directions, including toward Baghdad or toward Washington. I know that al-'Iryani was so optimistic that he submitted the proposal to 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and began persuading him of the need to proceed with it out of concern for the future situation in Iraq. Moving in this area depends on convincing Saddam Husayn and the top leadership in Baghdad that the United States will continue to oppose lifting sanctions as long as Saddam Husayn is in power. If he implements the UN resolutions, the United States will find new charges against him for Albright to take to the Security Council backed by satellite photographs and American intelligence reports. These charges and cogent arguments already exist. They will undoubtedly find open ears in the United States and a readiness to adopt a tougher position on the part of the Republicans who control the House and Senate.

I think that the Clinton administration might find a convenient way out of the confrontation with Saddam by removing him in favor of his brother. Sanaa undoubtedly will stress the importance of changing the name of the person who heads the regime in Baghdad as the only way to lift the embargo."

Here I asked him: "People have known for years that the problem is that Saddam Husayn does not want to give up power. His wager is that the sanctions will be lifted while he remains in power."

He replied: "I can't predict Saddam Husayn's reaction. You are undoubtedly right to say that he is determined to stay in power. Honestly, I still don't know the formula for staging the solution. All I know is that it is an issue that has been raised seriously and in a new way that tries to bring about change from within the regime and through a high-placed person from the center of the family."

Will Saddam stay in the government without being at its head? Will Barzan succeed in persuading the family to keep its privileges and save Iraq without losing its positions? How? The answers to these questions are still unknown. On the other hand, no one can know the extent of Barzan al-Takriti's powers domestically to push this solution through. No one can predict the intensity or scope of the power struggle among brothers, cousins, and clansmen and the future balance of power, especially if domestic, regional, and international factors come into play. Iraq's people and officials cannot withstand the international embargo forever. Repercussions are likely to appear within the ruling family, especially if they are linked to enticements such as those offered to Barzan. Coming months undoubtedly will bring the answer either in Yemen or in Iraq.

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## Officials React to Demirel Remarks on Altering Border

### RCC Denounces Statements

*JN0405173995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—Iraq has strongly denounced statements attributed to Turkey's President Suleyman Demirel in which he called for redrawing the borders between Iraq and Turkey under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

A spokesman for the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has said the Foreign Ministry has been tasked with requesting clarification regarding this issue from the Turkish Government. Before noon today, the Foreign Ministry received, via the Turkish charge d'affaires in Baghdad, a paper explaining the Turkish Government's position on this issue.

The RCC spokesman said: The Turkish Government's clarifications do not deny that the Turkish officials are, in fact, considering this issue. They have done that without consulting Iraq or asking for its view on the subject, and we denounce this very strongly.

The RCC spokesman said: We have strongly warned against Turkey's military invasion of northern Iraq, and we noted the suspect motives which go beyond the excuses declared by the Turkish Government. We also warned against the exposed collusion between the Turkish Government and the U.S. Administration over this operation. The Turkish president's statements shed new light on the real objectives of this invasion, and on the hostile U.S. schemes against Iraq and its sovereignty and national unity, including resolution 986 and the part of it that concerns conditions in the northern part of the country.

The spokesman added: Iraq rejects any discussion of the issue and warns Turkey against any unilateral step that would breach the national border. Iraq will resist any act of this kind by all legitimate means. No obstacles will prevent it from doing so.

The RCC spokesman urged Iraqi citizens in the Autonomous Region to be vigilant and aware of this and other suspect Turkish and U.S. schemes.

The spokesman added: Moreover, those statements reflect the aims of the air ban imposed on the northern part of the country since 1991. The Turkish Government bears a direct responsibility for this ban since it has allowed U.S. and British aircraft to be stationed on its territory. In addition, Turkey is carrying out acts that breach Iraq's sovereignty.

The spokesman called on the French Government to define its stand on the air ban issue and to end its symbolic participation in it. The spokesman said such a move would reflect what France has always stressed in terms of respecting Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence, as indicated by all relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The spokesman also called on the Arab League, the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement member states, and the international community in general to warn Turkey against changing the Iraqi- Turkish border or interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs.

Following is the text of the position paper conveyed by the Turkish charge d'affaires to the Foreign Ministry on this subject:

—It is common knowledge that the Iraqi-Turkish borders were delineated in accordance with the geographic terrain without taking the two countries' security needs into consideration, especially those needs related to preventing terrorist infiltrations.

—The difficulties resulting from this situation have been disclosed from time to time on various state levels.

—It is natural for the public opinion to discuss the legitimate apprehensions and problems arising from the borderline, at a time when measures are being considered following the Turkish operation in northern Iraq.

—Nevertheless, solutions of problems related to common borders cannot be realized except through: 1) joint consultations between the two countries to define demands; and 2) the expression of a joint political will to reach such a solution in a way that would not affect the interests of either country.

—In a recent statement to the Turkish media, his excellency the president of the Republic of Turkey made definite remarks in this context as follows: "The Iraqi-Turkish borders are not correct but settling this issue is not subject to discussion at the present moment."

—Therefore, any other remarks attributed to his excellency the president of the Republic of Turkey within the above statement to the Turkish media are absolutely out of context.

### SAIRI Requests Apology

*NC0405185195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 May 95*

["Text" of a statement issued by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI); date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was not enough for the Turkish Government to send its troops to devastate northern Iraq under the excuse of chasing elements of the Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party, thus violating Iraq's sovereignty. It uncovered [words indistinct] underlying its suspicious military activity in a large part of Kurdistan, when the Turkish president demanded, in his recent statements, that the border with Iraq be redrawn to

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include the hills separating the two countries. He even demanded that Mosul be considered part of Turkey since, according to him, Turkey's borders begin where the oil ends.

Just as we condemned the Turkish invasion from the outset, we once again condemn any threat to Iraq's sovereignty and geographic integrity. The Turkish statements confirm Turkey's previous ambitions in Mosul and other areas and conflicts with the internationally-recognized agreements and charters that defined countries' borders and declared them sacred.

The Turkish president's statement presents a serious threat to the sovereignty of a state that enjoys internationally recognized borders. Any such blatant change in the geographical markings would be an attempt to create disputes and conflicts among neighboring states, which already have border disputes. This eventually shakes regional stability and leaves the door wide open for a large-scale conflict.

Such statements unfortunately agree with Israel's ambitions and schemes for the region. Moreover, they contradict earlier statements, in which the Turkish president reiterated his eagerness to preserve Iraq's unity and sovereignty. Furthermore, the Turkish president's remarks conflict with the statements issued following regular meetings among the foreign ministers of Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Syria. These meetings reiterated eagerness to preserve Iraq's unity and territorial integrity.

Iraq's territorial integrity cannot be relinquished for any reason. We denounce anything to the contrary.

On the other hand, we believe that dictator Saddam's continued presence as the head of the regime in Iraq subjects the country to major threat. The recent Turkish position was a consequence. Moreover, we believe that the best way for Iraq to restore sovereignty and resume its positive role in the region and the world is to expel Saddam and his clique to rid Iraq and the region of their evils.

We call on the Turkish Government to give a satisfactory explanation for these statements and their motives and to apologize to the Iraqi people. We also call on Turkey to fully and quickly withdraw from northern Iraq.

We appeal to the Iraqi opposition, particularly brother Kurds, to denounce these suspicious tendencies. We appeal to the world community, including the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Arab League, and all Arab states to denounce and resent these irresponsible statements, which destabilize a region that is already sitting on a powder keg. We call for respecting international treaties and charters that preserve the rights and common interests of neighboring states.

### SAIRI Chief Objects to Remarks

*NC0505075195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has commented on Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's remarks about modifying the Turkish-Iraqi border. He told the Voice of the Oppressed that concessions cannot be made on Iraq's political border, which is ratified by international treaties, or on any other part of Iraq.

Al-Hakim added: We object to Demirel's recent remarks on this issue. We see them as exploiting the weakness of Saddam Husayn's regime.

The SAIRI chairman concluded his comment by saying that he believes Saddam's regime will be a factor of regional unrest and a serious threat to Iraq's national unity while it remains in power.

### France Unaware of Border Plans

*JN0405193795 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to recent statements by the Turkish president on the borders between Iraq and Turkey, (Richard Docait), French Foreign Ministry spokesman, has told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Paris that France adheres to the unity and territorial integrity of the states in the region and that France is not aware of any plan or initiative concerning the redrawing of borders between Iraq and Turkey.

He added that no talks whatsoever were held between French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel on the issue of the Iraqi-Turkish borders, and that there were no contacts in this regard between France and Turkey.

(Richard Docait) said that France was informed of a Turkish denial of reports speaking of signals that a political decision has been taken in this regard and of talks with Baghdad on possible amendments to the common borders between the two countries.

The French official spokesman noted that during a recent visit by the European troika ministerial delegation, led by the French foreign minister, to Ankara, the Turkish authorities gave assurances to the European delegation that the Turkish incursion in northern Iraq will be limited, both in time and objectives, and that Turkey will respect the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

### Paper Assails 'Suspect Calls'

*JN0405084395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that Iraq will firmly resist by all legitimate means any encroachment on its national borders and territorial integrity and will not be stopped by any obstacle.

In an editorial discussing statements attributed to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel by Turkish papers, Al-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th

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Party, says: What draws attention is the fact that such suspect calls frequently surface as test balloons that go beyond the Turkish Government's pretexts regarding its recent military invasion of northern Iraq. This invasion violated all international laws and norms, and the principles of good neighborliness that should exist among states.

The paper adds: The invasion, in which Turkish troops penetrated deep inside Iraqi national territory, was carried out in collusion, and in close coordination, with the U.S. Administration. What calls for regret is the exposed ignorance that prompted some officials in Turkey to imagine that Turkey's national security is linked to giving in to the U.S. will and to implementing the U.S. Administration's policies, which are influenced by the Zionist lobby, in this part of the world.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Day by day, it has been proven beyond any doubt that Turkey's national security and the prosperity of its economy are linked to stability in northern Iraq and to the return of the Iraqi national authorities to this area, as well as to the withdrawal of the poised Hammer force. This withdrawal has been demanded by Turkish popular and political circles, except for some persons who linked their own interests to the U.S. will, contrary to Turkey's national interests.

The paper emphasizes that Turkey's national interests require that its relations with Iraq be in harmony with the desire of wide Turkish popular and political circles. These circles view a stable relationship between Iraq and Turkey as a sure guarantee for the prosperity of both the Turkish economy and people. This relationship should not be mortgaged to the U.S. Administration, which is not concerned about the interests of the Turkish people.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that our Iraqi Kurdish sons, who obtained great gains from their revolution and national government—gains which were crowned with autonomy—will not sell out the unity of their country and will resist these suspect schemes. Concluding, the paper says: These schemes will ultimately bring opposite results for the circles linked to the U.S. schemes, and Iraq will continue to be a unified country.

## 'Saddam's Fedayeen' Reportedly Replacing Guard Officers

*JN0405163295 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The tyrant [Saddam Husayn] has recently dismissed a number of Republican Guard officers who belong to his special guard brigades, and replaced them with new elements from the formations of the so-called Saddam's Fedayeen. The tyrant's move comes after he received reports from his special security apparatus and military intelligence casting doubt on the loyalty of these officers to their master and because most of them originally come from the Mosul and al-Ramadi tribes. The tyrant has been apprehensive that officers from these tribes were planning to topple his dictatorial regime and save Iraq from his evil.

These days, the tyrant is relying on the so-called Saddam's Fedayeen elements who will be his private guards in the near future. The tyrant has appointed his idiot son, 'Udayy, as a supervisor of these hired gangs.

## Radio Reports PUK Attacks on Regime's Forces

*NC0405170795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Iraqi regime's forces deployed in the north near liberated Kurdistan are continuing their attacks on the liberated villages and towns adjacent to the enemy forces' positions on the contact lines. Their attacks are inflicting heavy losses on [words indistinct] and farms.

In retaliation for these attacks and in order to punish the regime's forces and to foil dictator Saddam Husayn's intentions of harming liberated Kurdistan and its steadfast people, a force from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] peshmerga launched a sudden punitive attack on the bloody regime's forces deployed in the area of (Kaz al-Karam) in Karkuk Governorate on Tuesday night [2 May]. The peshmerga force seized a number of hills and areas and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy forces. [passage omitted]

In heroic battles the PUK heroes succeeded in destroying and seizing the enemy forces' posts and fortifications in record time and in inflicting heavy losses on the regime's forces as follows:

I. On the [word indistinct] axis:

The courageous PUK peshmerga fighters launched a lightning attack on one of the 57th Division's commando regiments. They destroyed and burned this regiment's positions and killed more than 40 soldiers and captured 20 others. The PUK fighters also inflicted the following losses on the enemy forces:

A. Three military vehicles were burned.
B. One Land Rover jeep was burned.
C. Two military vehicles were burned.
D. A Brazilian-made vehicle and a Lada vehicle were burned.

A military equipment and ammunition store was burned and [words indistinct] were seized. The heroic peshmerga captured 120 weapons of various types, a Racal communications set, and a number of [words indistinct].

In the same attack, the heroic peshmerga seized the headquarters of the 2nd Battery of the 2nd Regiment of the 126th Brigade and the hills surrounding the same regiment. Ten of the regime's troops were killed, including a number of officers, and five others were taken prisoner.

Our forces also seized the following equipment and weapons:

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1. A 12.5 mm DSHK gun
2. Four 60-mm guns
3. An RPJ launcher
4. One [word indistinct] rifle
5. 10 Kalashnikov rifles
6. Two CRE communications sets, in addition to a large quantity of mortar, RPJ, and DHSK shells and quantities of Kalashnikov bullets and other military equipment.

II. On the Tuz axis:

On the same night, the heroic PUK peshmerga launched another sudden attack on the battery belonging to the 1st Regiment of the 127th Brigade of the regime army's 57th Division. Our heroic forces killed eight enemy soldiers while six soldiers surrendered to the peshmerga and refused to fight for the dictator. One of the enemy officers killed was Staff Major Mahmud Husayn, commander of the commando regiment and a friend of the dictator. Among those injured were Commando Capt. 'Umar Muhammad Salam and Commando Capt. Tal'at Dahham 'Abd-al-Qadir.

The heroic defendants of Kurdistan destroyed the headquarters of the 57th Commando Regiment and the nearby companies' centers.

III. On the [word indistinct]-Safi axis:

On the same night, the heroic PUK peshmerga fighters launched another lightning attack on the enemy forces positions, destroyed two enemy vehicles, inflicted heavy losses on other positions, and seized the following weapons and equipment:

1. 174 weapons of various types
2. Seven communications set of various types
3. Huge quantities of mortar, DHSK, and RPJ shells, and other military equipment
4. Five vehicles of various types and an ammunition and weapons store were burned
5. More than 60 enemy personnel were killed, including officers and noncommissioned officers
6. 31 enemy personnel were taken prisoner

Our loss in this immortal and heroic battles was the martyrdom of one PUK peshmerga fighter. Glory and immortality to his noble soul and to the souls of all our noble martyrs. Shame and disgrace on the 'Aflaqite regime's forces.

## Baghdad Said Urging Arabs To Push UN on Sanctions

*NC0405131595 Paris AFP in English 1248 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, May 4 (AFP)—Iraq on Thursday [4 May] urged other Arab countries to push the UN Security Council to ease the economic sanctions imposed almost five years ago, Arab diplomats said.

The diplomats said the Iraqi foreign ministry gave letters to Arab ambassadors and diplomats in Baghdad asking for help ahead of a regular Security Council review of the sanctions set for next week in New York.

Western diplomats in New York said they expect the sanctions to be maintained.

In April, the Security Council adopted Resolution 986 allowing Iraq to resume limited oil sales provided the proceeds are used to buy food and medicine.

Baghdad rejected the proposal which required strict international monitoring of the sales.

Six Arab countries—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain—have no diplomatic representation in the Iraqi capital, diplomats said.

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## Rabin Leaves for Washington To Meet U.S. Officials

*TA0505051395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is now on his way to Washington for talks with senior administration officials. He will meet later today with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defense Secretary William Perry.

On Sunday [7 May], the prime minister will meet with President Bill Clinton. They will discuss ways of advancing the peace negotiations between Israel and Syria and difficulties in implementing the second stage of the autonomy agreement with the Palestinians. Also on Sunday, the prime minister and the President will appear before the annual conference of AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee], the pro-Israel lobby.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 5 May, in a report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Hayim Shibi in Washington on pages 1 and 6, quotes Rabin as saying: "I am going with the hope of overcoming the difficulties in the negotiations. We will study ways to renew the talks with the Syrians and to make them a success." The report says that "prior to his departure, Rabin noted that from a message he received from the U.S. peace team, he knows that the Syrians recognize the fact that Israel is insisting on open borders and full diplomatic relations. He said that at this stage he sees no need to make a commitment about the scope of the withdrawal as long as he does not know what the Syrians are prepared to give in return regarding timetables and security arrangements."

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 5 May in a report by Hemi Shalev, Avino'am Bar-Yosef in Washington, and Yo'av Limor in London on pages 1 and 2, writes that Rabin will declare to President Clinton: "Do not cut aid to Israel."

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English in a report by Hillel Kuttler in Washington on pages 1 and 2 adds: "Aides to Rabin said that Israel has no particular arms-purchase requests to make at this time and that Rabin plans to ask the U.S. to refrain from selling advanced weapons, including AMRAAM and TOW missiles to Arab countries."]

## 'Sources': U.S. Not To Increase Talks Involvement

*TA0505083595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 May 95 pp A1, A2*

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United States will not deepen its involvement in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations and will not change the character of its activity as a go-between, senior political sources in Jerusalem said on the eve of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington. They said that "each side has its own agenda on the Middle East." Rabin reiterated in recent weeks that he flatly rejects any American bridging proposals.

The senior sources assessed that the administration will continue its efforts to advance the negotiations along the Syrian track for several more weeks and then make a thorough appraisal of the chances for a breakthrough. The United States believes that the negotiations are in a critical stage because, in the sources' words, "the end of the season will be the end of the year."

Rabin left last night for the United States, where he will discuss with President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher ways to advance the negotiations with Syria. Rabin will suggest secret talks at a senior level, an idea the Syrians have so far rejected. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who conferred with President Clinton in New York on Sunday, received the impression that the administration sees no point in increasing its involvement as a mediator in order to avoid the impression that Israel is making concessions due to American pressure. The administration believes that if such an impression is gained, it will harm any chance of achieving a settlement. Clinton told Peres that the Americans will intervene only if requested by both sides.

Peres tried to convince Clinton to become personally involved in the Syrian track. He told the President that an Israeli-Syrian peace accord is different from an agreement with any other state because it will end the state of war in the Middle East and lead to a comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arab world.

Before leaving for the United States, Peres was handed information that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad expects clarifications on what he will get from the United States in return for signing a peace accord with Israel. Peres discussed it with President Clinton, who told him: "The United States will do all it can after the sides reach a breakthrough."

Israel and the United States have various assessments of the reason for al-Asad's holdup in the talks with Israel. Senior Israeli sources said "the Americans also do not know if it is tactical (in order to get more concessions out of Israel) or if he has difficult domestic problems." Many reports reaching Israel in recent weeks from European and Russian sources said that al-Asad is currently busy preparing his son Bashir as his heir in the Syrian leadership and that this now tops his agenda.

The United States still hopes that if progress is made in the negotiations on security arrangements, it will be possible to complete the draft Israeli-Syrian settlement and start negotiations on Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Administration sources estimated that if agreement is reached on the establishment of Israeli and Syrian early warning stations on the Golan and in the Galilee, and advanced military technology for Israel is

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guaranteed, Rabin will announce a readiness for a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the international border. [passage omitted]

### Weizman Makes 'Dramatic' Appeal to al-Asad

*TA0405164095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jerusalem, President 'Ezer Weizman held a reception for the diplomatic corps. Attending the reception was our reporter David Essing:

[Essing] I have just come back from the reception which is now going on. I have been attending these presidential receptions for years now, and never has the president of the day ever made a dramatic statement the way President 'Ezer Weizman did today. Weizman made a special appeal to Syria's President al-Asad. He also expressed his worries about the peace process when he spoke to the entire diplomatic corps that is gathering at his residence at this hour. This is what President 'Ezer Weizman had to say:

[Begin Weizman recording] In this good year of our 47th independence, and in the 17th year of peace with Egypt, and the first year of peace with Jordan, I call upon President al-Asad that he has to realize that peace is made with public opinions of nations, leaders too, of course. And that he has to understand what Egypt did, what President al-Sadat and, may he live for many years, his majesty King Husayn did to make the people of Israel feel that they are wanted. When I saw the plane of King Husayn flying here—I was standing here, I was watching him, and, like a fool, I was waiving knowing that he does not see anything; we pilots know that it is idiotic to do that, but I did it—I was very excited.

I think that the way it is going on now is a very shaky way. We have to meet leaders; we have to talk to leaders; we have to talk business. It might have pitfalls; it might have mines; it might have all sorts of accidents. It took us 16 months with Egypt to come to peace. And with Egypt they say it was easy; believe me, it was not so easy, but we did it. Jordan is another story. And if the Syrian leader wants, sincerely, to make peace with us, he has to deal with us in a different way, or most of us will start thinking that perhaps he does want it sincerely. I do not want to go further than that. I hope that it is not so. [end recording]

### Jerusalem To Halt Construction at Orient House

*TA0505083995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 May 95 p 2*

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A possible showdown is brewing between the Jerusalem Municipality and Orient House, as city officials say they will obtain a work stoppage order today on allegedly illegal construction at the PLO headquarters in the city.

Yesterday, city building inspectors accompanied by police entered the Orient House compound in eastern Jerusalem to take measurements and photographs of the work.

A one-floor, 70-meter addition to the main Orient House building is under way, and another one or two floors may be planned, a municipal source said. A permit for the work was not obtained, the source said.

The source said building inspectors patrolling eastern Jerusalem noticed the construction earlier this week. They were refused entry by Orient House guards Wednesday [3 May], so they returned yesterday with police, the source said.

Yesterday's inspection was without incident. Orient House officials said the inspectors could have entered on Wednesday, but misunderstood guards who told them to wait outside until permission was obtained for them to enter.

"This whole affair is just another act of incitement by Israeli authorities and the Israeli right-wing against Orient House," an Orient House official said.

The official described the work as "renovations" of a building earmarked to be the media offices of Orient House.

Deputy Mayor Shmu'el Me'ir (NRP) [National Religious Party] said members of a group he heads called the Jerusalem Forum discovered the construction. Me'ir, who has spearheaded the attempt by right-wing groups to shut down Orient House, said the city would demolish the unapproved construction.

However, municipal officials said such a move is unlikely. Instead, a court order to halt work will be obtained this morning. Orient House will then be able to obtain a permit to continue work.

"There is nothing at all political about this. The inspectors have a job to do. If Orient House wants to build, they must get a permit like anyone else," the municipal source said.

### Three Galilee Residents Hurt in Katyusha Attack

*TA0505044995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Three residents of the Galilee Panhandle were lightly hurt overnight in a katyusha attack. The attack also caused minor damage to property. Two of those hurt went into shock and the third received minor scratches. The area has been quiet in the hours since the attack. News agency reports from south Lebanon said that yesterday afternoon two Lebanese civilians were killed by SLA [South Lebanese Army] and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery fire at Hizballah targets. Earlier, shots had been fired from the Hizballah bases at the IDF and SLA positions. One of the two Lebanese reported killed was a four-year-old girl from the village of Yatar.

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## King Addresses House, Senate Members

*JN0305191195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 95*

[Speech by King Husayn at meeting with members of the Senate and House of Representatives at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 3 May—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers, it pleases me to welcome you on this good day in the house of the Jordanians, you who are the leading figures of this big one family to which we belong. You are the representatives of this good, beloved united people. You participate in voicing their opinion and contribute to the formulation of decisions in their interest, for their present and future.

The Senate is the King's privy council, the council of the brothers who have offered much, assumed responsibilities, and handed them over to others, and who are now assuming the responsibility at your side, and are carrying out their role and duty to the fullest, with God's help.

I am happy to be among you today at this stage in the life of the homeland, having taken big strides on the road, while much more awaits us so we will have the future that we wish for our sons and daughters, and for our one family, which will remain cherished and strong, with God's help.

This day is the beginning of my 43d year in the service of this family and this good people. I take great pride in belonging to this people, from the moment I first saw the light and throughout the long journey. I express my thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for their kindness, which I will never forget so long as I live, in terms of the trust, support, amity, and support that was my lot in this life.

On this day, I will speak to you, you who represent this people and are their elected representatives, of some apprehensions viewed against the backdrop of our experience. We recall such a day in 1953 when we formed the first government, and gave the young people the opportunity to assume their responsibilities in it on the road to democracy, political pluralism, and respect of human rights. Free elections were then held, and we started moving. My hopes and aspirations on that day were the same as those when we succeeded, thanks be to God, in resuming this life and this style of dealing with one another, to build the homeland and defend the right of its sons to a dignified life, as well as the right of future generations.

Regrettably, we did not succeed the first time. Shortly after the promising beginning, our hopes and wishes were shattered because many people in this country looked outside it. Political pluralism turned our country into an arena for all the parties, formations, organizations, and trends that used to exist in the Arab homeland. Most of these were not established in Jordan, and neither did they advocate Jordan's opinion or defend Jordan. Apparently, the objective was a race to tarnish Jordan's reputation, to destroy and fragment it. This was the result of what we have experienced. The state and its prestige were targeted. Regrettably and painfully, this ended in the late fifties with a natural reaction to failure.

We wasted many years until we returned to the right way. I say this because I lived that stage. I say this in order to remind my brothers, the deputies, senators, and citizens in this country, of the need to be alert and cautious; and to care for the state's prestige, for the democratic march, for political pluralism, and respect for human rights. Regarding all that I have said, we should also pay attention to the need to create a reasonable balance between what we want, and to safeguard it so Jordan will be stronger and more capable of confronting challenges and dangers, and of performing its duty toward its nation. Jordan should be an example to be followed by others, instead of wasting efforts, God forbid, and of proceeding on the road to chaos and loss.

My hopes in you are great, very great. My eagerness to maintain this democratization process, political pluralism, and respect for human rights is unlimited. However, each individual should know what those rights mean. Everyone should know he has obligations that he should meet fully. Everyone should know he has responsibilities that he must bear faithfully, honestly, and determinedly. All these responsibilities are based on respect for the Constitution and the National Charter, which was drafted by all organizations and trends in this country to organize our march ahead as one family, one hand, and one heart.

This is an occasion to make things clearer than ever before in order to avoid any misinterpretation. Extensive work is ahead of us. After all those years, after this country has suffered more than anybody else, this country has been generous, proud, genuinely Arab-affiliated, ready to offer sacrifices, and constantly placed its Arab nation's interests before its own interests, bravely and honorably defending them. It has defended principles and values. It has the right to live a decent life. The coming generations have the right to be given a chance to live a decent life on their land and soil, for the sake of which we sacrifice our souls.

In this context, I truly hope we will renounce one-upmanship and differences among ourselves. Let us be mindful of what is possible and what should be. Let us help one another in righteousness and piety. Let us help one another to serve our people. Let us give more. God willing, this esteemed chamber will assume its responsibilities at this stage irrespective of what some say or try to delude people into believing. This chamber will give this country the firm pillars for building a promising, good future, God willing.

We are from and for our nation. During my recent trips abroad I have sensed a great deal of appreciation for this country and for its stands, as well as respect for its people. I have sensed a desire to back and support this country to an extent far beyond its size or population.

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I believe that even when a Jordanian individual tours the greater part of the Arab homeland, he finds that people view this country as one that has made great accomplishments, that its people have managed to cope with challenges, and that its men do not bow their heads to anyone except God almighty.

Hence, our hope is that some of those within our ranks will halt the shameless self-flagellation, misrepresentation of facts, and muddling in an attempt to undermine all this. It is our hope that they will halt these practices. In the past, they might have had relations with external parties. They should think about severing these relations and joining this family and this march so that they may build, along with the builders, and realize for this country and this people what they deserve at present and in the future.

With regard to the freedom of speech and journalism, it is being said that the freedom of expression is being muzzled, although we have a huge number of various kinds of newspapers. This lowliness from which we suffer and experience, and which causes us pain, is abundant. Nonetheless, it is claimed that nobody enjoys the freedom to express himself. This lowliness has allowed some to inflict harm on this country, and allowed us to harm one another. We have always hoped that the press in this country will set an example, serve as a model, and open its pages for free and excellent people who are denied the opportunity to express themselves in our greater homeland, and whose voices are muzzled, so that they may write in them and continue their efforts to play their roles and perform their duties.

In this regard, permit me to say that there is a great disparity between what we have aspired for and the current state of affairs, which, God willing, will not last long, in which we have reached rock bottom. Our performance has declined; and we have to rescue ourselves from the quagmire in which we find ourselves, so we may once again perform our duties and play our roles, each in his own position and area and in the best possible manner.

I will address inter-Arab relations for a while. I will begin with our relationship with our kinsfolk and brothers in Palestine. Here, we are a close-knit family. Consequently, you feel pain when a quarrel between two of our sons at a university hits the international news headlines, or when anything of the sort happens. We are speaking of a close-knit family, of the same and one march. Hence, it is my hope that everybody will help us safeguard and protect this march, as well as the example that it must set for all people in the Arab homeland and elsewhere.

With regard to inter-Arab relations, God be praised, we are doing our best to effect a rapprochement with our brothers throughout the Arab homeland. Any favorable move the Arabs make toward us will be met with several such steps by us. God be praised, the overall picture is clearer than it was. Nonetheless, we must persist with our efforts along that road. And here, we would like to reiterate to all that our democratic process should not disturb anybody. Likewise, our way of life should not disturb anybody. If we succeed, this success in itself will make a contribution toward the building of the Arab future by way of setting an example and giving a model. We pray to God that we will succeed in this endeavor, and that our brothers will be able to examine this experiment in the hope that it might provide a solution and bring prosperity. It is hoped that this nation will be able to cope with all challenges and difficulties and achieve its desired goals, when one feels that he is of value everywhere in this greater homeland and that he is contributing toward the creation of his present and future.

That was concerning our Arab relations in general. As for our relations with our Palestinian brethren, they are special and strong relations. They will remain as such, God willing. In effect, this is a country of one family, immigrants and supporters [Palestinians and Jordanians]. It is closest to Palestine—the cause, rights, and territory. However, not for the first time, let me reiterate with extreme frankness and clarity what I have said everywhere: We will not interfere, we will not be forced or dragged into taking any measure or arrangement which would indicate, one way or another, that we have any ambitions about a single inch of Palestinian territory or about imposing our hegemony on any Palestinian individual. We are eager to maintain clear and stain-free relations now and in the future. Our brethren have opted for their own way. If some residues of doubts keep surfacing from time to time, one way or another, our eagerness to maintain this relationship and its purity necessitates that we say explicitly and clearly that will not interfere, we will not be a substitute for anybody, we will not force ourselves on anybody. We have no ambitions. We only aspired to perform our duty within and at the forefront of our nation toward Palestine—the land, rights, and people—nothing more, nothing less. One day, God willing, when the Palestinian people on their soil will be able to act, think, and decide freely, we will be ready to hold a dialogue if they so wish about the ideal formula for the relationship between us. We are closest to each other with regard to the future. This is something that will be left for the appropriate time and circumstances.

Regarding peace, this is an issue which we raised for debate among people in general. We decided to observe [God's command]: And consult them in affairs of moment. Then, when thou hast taken a decision, put thy trust in God [Koranic verse]. Therefore, we went to Madrid. We have constantly been eager to restore our land and rights. In Madrid and up to Washington, we were eager to provide the umbrella and room for the Palestinian brethren to exercise their right and to speak for themselves and their cause. We waited until they proceeded with the Oslo agreement and then the Washington document before beginning raising the agenda and other issues. We could not proceed before the other side accepted our view that no agreement should be

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signed before negotiations are completed. We agreed to negotiate every topic. In case an agreement was reached, then peace would come afterward to crown this process and the efforts to arrive to it. That was how things proceeded. Thus, we restored our territory and water in full within the rights of both Jordan and Israel, pending the achievement of comprehensive peace, which will prevail, God willing. Difficult situations were confronted bravely. Throughout the long voyage, there was profound awareness of the meaning of responsibility. If my land is occupied and my people are threatened and suffering, it is then my duty and to leave no stone unturned and to try everything. There is nothing honorable or to be proud of in remaining in an ivory tower. We have bargained over no principle or right. Before the Rabat summit decision of 1974 [considering the PLO the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people] and during the stage when we were directly and morally responsible for the West Bank, we demanded the return of every inch of land, including Arab Jerusalem. If any amendments were to take place, they would only take place in agreement between the two sides. They would be minor and reciprocal amendments of the truce line which existed before the disastrous war of June 1967.

That is why we were unable to move forward, and we did not accept even what was proposed to us at some stage, the restoration of 98 percent of the land. This is our land and it should be completely restored.

But, when we no longer were responsible and the responsibility was assumed by those who should assume it in accordance with their wish and backed by the entire Arab and Islamic nation, we blessed their endeavor. We backed them and continue to do so. We support their legitimate sole representative in accordance with the decision they made in the past. We wish them success and tell them that we are ready to support them in every stand if they indicate what we should offer and we find that we can offer what they ask for.

I received the letter from President 'Arafat on the issue of Jerusalem only yesterday. We started to act on the issue of the land and what could be done. I was sad that I had not been able to do something before that date. But had we done so, some would have said that we interfered in what does not concern us.

In any case, the issue will be discussed on the Arab level. God wiling, the results will be good. Our relatives and brothers, the people of Palestine should rest assured that we support and back them. What is good for them is good for us. Their pride is our pride, and their comfort is our comfort. On the level of the leadership, we recognize it, support and back it. We wish it success, and we ask God to enable it and us to perform our duty now and in the future to the people, the relatives, and this people who deserve to live.

Everyone of us should give up one's ego. Unfortunately, this is a characteristic which overwhelms many in our Arab world, and perhaps in ourselves. Instead, we should take care to be part of a good and fruitful march, God willing.

On the other tracks, we want what we have achieved to be a cornerstone in a comprehensive and full peace in this region; a peace that will restore to the Palestinians their right on their national soil and will settle all the other remaining issues through the return of the land to its owners, as was the case for us here. A peace among Muslims [as heard]. Once again, I repeat it, even though one of my brothers once objected to it, that the sons of Prophet Abraham and their descendants should treat one another in a fair manner until doomsday. No one can deny this fact and this reality. This land is the cradle of the three divine religions. I believe that from a religious point of view, we are duty bound to work to reestablish justice and peace among the Muslims on permanent and solid bases.

The issue of peace and the treaty were submitted to this house, which represents this people, and which approved it. I believe that the overwhelming majority of our people support what was approved. The process passed through the various constitutional stages. There are opponents in our big one family. However, the minority respects the opinion of the majority.

I believe that after this, we entered into a race. Those who were against peace changed their language and their expressions and have now become against normalization [al-tatbi']. They are the same people who have the same objectives and concepts, but, perhaps, with more insistence and in many cases supported and backed by parties from outside this country.

On the question of normalization, I tried to understand what they wanted. Either, there is peace or there is a state of no-war and no-peace, as used to be the case. Upon looking in the dictionary and AL-MUNJID we found that our brothers who say they are against normalization [tatbi'] were not even lucky in their choice of words. LISAN AL-'ARAB defines it as dirt and filth. Please check your dictionaries for the meaning of the word. If one in Egypt uses the word normalization we follow suit. If this is the meaning of normalization, then I am too against normalization.

We have concluded a peace treaty and we are comitted to implement it in letter and spirit. As for the dirt and filth, we do not want it [laughter].

Anyway, we are where we are. Regarding the race I am talking about, all I want is that we pool efforts to build this country. We should seize the many opportunities available to us by relying on ourselves, and by benefiting from all that reaches us. Change will begin within two or three years, and everyone will experience this change within five years. Brothers, I have spent 42 years travelling around the world. I lost face while I was begging, but I am honored, to secure the needs of this country, its Armed Forces, and Arab army. What I wish, whether I lived during that period or not, is that this country will

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be strong, and will be in a position which enables it not to request aid from anyone, and not to beg. This will be possible if you all cooperate together, and if we begin to benefit from the available opportunities to proceed forward. [applause]

I ask my brothers who have a different opinion not to obstruct our march. I ask them to reconsider their stands and ideas so that we will be able to make progress as fast as possible. We will always safeguard our dignity and keep our heads high and be proud of what we have achieved and what we will achieve for this nation. Our strength is a strength for our nation. God willing, during your next meetings, which are soon regarding the deputies' meetings, and later for the others, I count on you to help us and support us tackle the laws which have something to do with what has taken place so that they will enhance our strength to continue the march, and then the laws which are related to making opportunities available and to giving chances to deal with everyone who wishes to contribute to building this country and to support it in the future, so that opportunities will be available for the people to come and work, and so that our citizen can work, realize his potentials, and achieve the aspired goals. Of course, it is his right to do so in a dear and proud homeland, God willing.

I will not be with you during the 'Id holidays. So, many happy returns to you, and through you, to all members of the big Jordanian family; the Armed Forces, the ground forces, the Air Force, the Naval Force, the Arab Army, and the lofty men, the men of the homeland in the various organs, who always work for the sake of the citizens' comfort and tranquility, and for the sake of deterring harms against them from any direction. We will continue on the road of development and administrative reforms with an optimistic outlook toward the future, which rejects frustration and those who exercise it, and which is open to all that is good, because this land is ours, and it is a solid ground. We will stand firmly on it and perform our duty in full, God willing toward ourselves, toward our nation, and toward the generations to come, God willing. May God's peace and blessing be upon you. [applause]

## Al-Kabariti, Envoys Discuss Israel Land Confiscation

*JN0405155995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] At his office today, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received the Spanish, German, and British ambassadors. Talks addressed the Israeli confiscation of Palestinian lands and the excavations under way under the walls of Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem. They also dealt with the critical role Europe can play to ensure the success of the Amman economic summit scheduled for October. The conferees discussed ways to establish a link between the Amman summit and the Barcelona summit, due to be held in November.

In a separate development, al-Kabariti met separately with the Yemeni and Tunisian ambassadors. Talks addressed the Arab League meeting due to convene on Saturday [13 May] and the need to coordinate stands to support and vindicate the Palestinian moves over Palestinian rights in Jerusalem.

## Paper: U.S. Move Setback for Iranian Moderates

*JN0405105095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 May pp 1, 7*

["News Analysis" by Lamid K. Andoni]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. decision to impose trade sanctions on Iran is a big blow to an otherwise growing trend inside the Tehran government as well as the business community that actively advocates normalisation of relations with the U.S.

The American move is also expected to reinforce a widely held view in Tehran that the U.S. is deliberately trying to cripple the oil-rich country in order to ensure the supremacy of Israel in the region.

Even some of the staunchest advocates of policies to accommodate the U.S. in the region have now reached the conclusion that Washington is mainly interested in maintaining Israel's military superiority, including its nuclear arsenal.

"(The campaign) against Iran aims at deflecting attention from the Israeli nuclear arsenal," Raja'i Khorasani, Iran's former ambassador to the U S., said in a recent interview in Tehran.

Mr. Khorasani came under fire two years ago for presenting a paper to supreme leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i saying that Iran should accommodate the U.S. so that Tehran could play a role in shaping the future of the region.

The British-educated member of parliament argued that since the U.S. became the sole power dominating the region following the Gulf war and the collapse of the Soviet bloc, Iran had no choice but to open a dialogue with the U.S. or else it will be at the receiving end of an American-imposed order in the Middle East.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, his team of advisors, and Jawad Larijani, head of the parliament's foreign committee, were among the strongest subscribers to the theory that Iran should improve its relations with the U.S..

Mr. Rafsanjani has repeatedly indicated that Iran was hoping that the U.S. would unfreeze Iranian assets in American banks. The freeze was imposed after the takeover of the American embassy in Tehran by militant Iranian students in 1979.

Ayatollah Khamene'i disagreed with Mr. Rafsanjani. His opinion, according to well-informed Iranian sources, was that priority should be given to consolidating ties with Europe, Japan and Russia.

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Subscribers to this view have argued that if Iran was successful in bridging political and trade relations with the rest of the industrialised countries the U.S. would not be able to isolate Tehran or dictate its terms.

Mr. Rafsanjani tried to follow both tracks. As a result, even though Iran has failed to improve its ties with the U.S. it does not find itself isolated but supported by its European links.

The European Union has already announced that it would continue its policy of "critical dialogue" with Iran and will not join the U.S.-led boycott.

"The Europeans will not undermine their own interests," said an Iranian analyst.

If anything the American boycott could actually benefit Europe, Japan and Russia if the rest of Washington's allies do not support the move.

"The U.S. keeps on pressuring us not to deal with Iran while it dominates Iranian markets," complained a West European diplomat recently.

"We just do not understand this. The U.S. dominated the Iranian markets before and after the revolution," added one East European diplomat.

Many Tehran-based foreign diplomats found it contradictory if not "hypocratic" that the U.S. is pressuring their governments to sever all trade ties with Iran while American companies enjoyed the lion's share of the Iranian market.

Trade between Iran and U.S. companies are estimated between $3 billion and $5 billion, including oil sales. Before the sanctions were declared U.S. oil companies were able to busy Iranian oil on the European free market provided they do not sell it in America.

But many American companies were doing business in Iran through foreign subsidiaries. According to one Western diplomat, many American engineers who hold Canadian or German passports are supervising the maintenance of Iranian oil wells.

Most financial analysts say that the U.S. stands to lose more from the boycott.

But Iranian analysts have been wary on the implications of such an American step on the political as well as the economic process in Iran.

They believe many officials and Iranians in general were becoming more susceptible to change that makes Iran more acceptable in the international community.

Change in Iran does not necessarily mean total accommodation of U.S. demands. What Iranians were hoping to reach was a state in which Iranians feel that they have a place in the international community, the analysts say.

The U.S. attitude, they cautioned, could strengthen hardliners and discourage "moderates." Many analysts feared that enmity with the U.S. will only taint moderates or advocates of pluralism in Iran as "pro-American" agents.

To many in Iran, Tehran has take several steps to accommodate the U.S. Iranians interviewed said that they had expected the Clinton administration to extend an olive branch to Tehran after the Gulf war.

"Iran was not exactly neutral in the Gulf war. But remaining passive and not heeding Arab and Islamic calls to support Iraq, it implicitly supported the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq," said one analyst.

But the Clinton administration dashed Iranian hopes by introducing the "dual containment" policy against Iraq and Iran that was advocated by Martin Indyk, the current U.S. ambassador to Israel. To some Iranians who supported rapprochement with the U.S. it came as a surprise that the U.S. wanted to limit Iran's access to technology and to accord the same treatment as Iraq—especially that some of them, including Mr. Khorasani, supported embargo against Iraq.

"Instead of being rewarded, Iran is being punished," Mr. Khorasani said.

To the U.S. however, as the U.S. Ambassador Madeline Albright made it clear again on Wednesday, Iran remained "an outlaw" and should be forced "to behave."

Iranians boast that they have an elected president and parliament, and these, in their view, are much more "than many U.S. allies (in the developing countries) can speak of."

Iranian officials reject both accusations of terrorism and that Iran is trying to obstruct the Middle East peace process.

"The so-called peace process has proved to be a failure. It does not need us or anyone else to obstruct it," said Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, head of the Middle East department in the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

But Sheykholeslam defended Iran's support of Lebanon's Hizbollah faction that Iran helped found in the early 80s. "That does not mean that Iranians will fight against Israel. It is mainly Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims who are resisting Israeli occupation. And yes, we do support them."

The Iranian official pointed out, as many others in Tehran do, that Iran is a signatory of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty while Israel is not.

"The U.S. is trying to achieve two things: To distract attention from the failure of the so-called peace process and to maintain Israeli supremacy," argued Sheykholeslam.

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## Opposition Parties Reject UN Resolution, Assail U.S.

*JN0305072695 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 May 95 p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The Jordanian opposition parties have said that the issuance of Security Council Resolution 986 confirms the continuation of the U.S. hostility toward the Iraqi people and its attempt to repress, humiliate, and fragment this people and loot their resources. It also confirms the continued U.S. conspiracy designed to strip Iraq of its sovereignty over its own territory and oil resources.

A statement signed by 11 Jordanian parties said that they reject and condemn Security Council Resolution 986 because it constitutes persistence in doing injustice. The 11 parties also demanded that the Arab governments, the Islamic World states, and the international community reject this resolution.

The statement was signed by the Islamic Action Front, the Pan- Arab Action Front Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, Hashd [the Jordanian People's Democratic Party], the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, the Progressive Arab Ba'th Party, the Constitutional Jordanian Arab Front Party, and the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

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### CIA Paper on 'Arafat, Saddam, al-Qadhdhafi Detailed

*NC0505062595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In Washington a CIA report has discussed the status and prospects for Yasir 'Arafat, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and Libyan President [title as heard] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Salim Salim, our correspondent in the U.S. capital, reports:

[Begin Salim recording] The CIA has drawn up a report, still not officially circulated, in which it examines current and future conditions in the Palestinian territories, Iraq, and Libya.

The report says that if Yasir 'Arafat loses the Palestinian leadership, he will be succeeded by a feeble coalition of leaders like Mahmud 'Abbas, Faruq Qaddumi, Nabil Sha'th, Ahmad Quray', and Faysal al-Husayni. The report does not rule out the possibility that these leaders might cooperate with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders.

The report adds that if 'Arafat is overthrown, progress in the peace talks will be slow.

Concerning Iraq, the report notes that Saddam Husayn has sufficient resources to remain in power, particularly as he enjoys the support of the loyal National Guard [name of force as heard].

The report points out that if Saddam is replaced, his successor will be an Arab Sunni Muslim who will not be very different in his domestic and foreign policies, particularly in seeking to promote Iraqi superiority in the Gulf.

Regarding Libya, the report states that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is secure in his position and that there is no effective domestic opposition to him.

The report says that al-Qadhdhafi consolidated his position last year after purging the Armed Forces of any possible opponents. [end recording]

Iraq has sent a message to the United Nations protesting a CIA request to the U.S. Congress for appropriations to finance anti-Iraq operations. In the message Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf asserted that this attitude by the U.S. Administration contradicts UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687, which calls for respecting Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence.

### Amal Head: Embargo Embodies 'Logic of Wolves'

*NC0505073995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi, the leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, has denounced the U.S. decision to impose a trade and financial embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Al-Musawi was speaking during a Hizballah ceremony held at a shrine commemorating 'Abbas al-Musawi, the chief martyr of the Islamic Resistance, in the village of al-Nabi Shit. The ceremony marked the first anniversary of the martyrdom of a group of Resistance mujahidin.

He said the U.S. proclamation of the embargo is designed to win Jewish votes in the coming U.S. Presidential election. He described the embargo decision as one embodying the law of the jungle and the logic of wolves.

Al-Musawi added that the Oklahoma City bombing is the beginning of the U.S. collapse, noting that the United States will vanish as did the former Soviet Union.

### Israeli Shelling, Overflights Continue

*NC0505084295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Great tension prevails in the south and western al-Biqa' following a hostile bombardment of al-Nabatiyah and the central sector. Israeli helicopters have increased their flights over the western and central sectors. They have raked the valleys near the villages of Majdal Zun, al-Mansuri, Zibqin, Kafra, and Yatar and the outskirts of Haddatha, Bra'shit, and Shaqra. Israeli reconnaissance planes have overflown various areas of the south.

At 1015 today Israeli artillery in al-'Ayshiyah bombarded al-Jabal al-Rafi' and the al-Tasah basin. Israeli gunboats today used machine guns to fire at the Lebanese fishermen's boats, forcing them to flee. The fishermen said these attacks occur daily to prevent them from fishing.

### Casualties From Israeli Shelling Reported

*NC0405192395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces shelled Jarju' at 1930 today. Citizen Hasan 'Ali Karaki was martyred while 55-year old Rida Ibrahim Darwish and his wife Latifah Darwish were injured in the shelling. The pair were evacuated to the al-Najdah al-Sha'biyah Hospital for treatment.

In return, the Islamic Resistance launched two attacks on the Sujud and Bi'r Kallab positions with machine guns and rockets, inflicting several casualties among

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their garrisons. Meanwhile, the artillery support unit shelled enemy troop concentrations inside al-Rayhan barracks, hitting a Merkava tank.

### Resistance Rockets Wound Three in Northern Israel

*NC0505063095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] AFP has reported that three rockets landed in an area of north occupied Palestine soon after 0100 today. The news agency said Israeli military censorship did not say where the Katyusha rockets fell.

This morning the Islamic Resistance stated that its groups bombarded Qiryat Shemona last night to avenge the martyrs of Kafra and Jarju'.

Israeli gunboats directed heavy machine-gun fire at fishing boats in the al-Jazirah area near the northern coast of Tyre, hitting some of them.

[In a related Tel Aviv-datelined report, Paris AFP in English at 0050 GMT on 5 May adds the following: "A salvo of five rockets fired from Lebanon hit northern Israel early Friday [5 May], slightly wounding three people, a military source said."]

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## Request for Secret Talks 'Understandable'

*JN0405153895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1139 GMT 4 May 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Perhaps the most serious adjective that could tarnish a treaty, an agreement, or negotiations is the word "secret". This is because when it comes to agreements and treaties, secrecy means unjust, illegal, and unethical issues are involved. Some, or all, parties cannot rid themselves of the repercussions of these agreements and treaties except within the darkness of secrecy.

Why, then, is Israel demanding secret negotiations with Syria, when it knows openness and clarity are now a global demand, whether in politics or in the media? The claim that secrecy protects the negotiating process from a sensationalist press that instigates public opinion and affects the negotiating process is unacceptable. There is a right in public negotiations to close the doors of the negotiating hall, with only the negotiators inside. At the end of a session, these negotiators can make press statements or they can refrain from doing so, as necessary. Therefore, the alleged perils to the peace process will be obviated.

Viewed from this premise, the motives behind Israel's demand for secret negotiations are understandable, but the demand is equally unacceptable. The motives are understandable because they are dissociated from any terms of reference or formula. They are merely an adventure that serves Israel's whims. If we go into details, secret negotiations entail transferring these negotiations to an unknown venue and divesting them of their international framework, represented by the presence of the peace cosponsors. The secrecy of negotiations requires ignoring, or rather, canceling, the terms of reference, that is, the UN Security Council resolutions—which stipulate a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 borders—and the U.S. initiative based on the land-for-peace principle. Moreover, holding secret negotiations means, in the first place, weakening Arab solidarity and canceling coordination among Arab parties. This, in turn, weakens any Arab party confronting Israel.

Although some Arab parties ignored the need for coordination and solidarity, Syria remains faithful to Arab solidarity and continues to call for strong coordination of Arab stands. The dangers confronting the Arab issue and the peace process as a result of the secret negotiations Israel is demanding are the reasons that make Syria reject these negotiations. Syria will not accept an alternative to open negotiations based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. Those who seek to achieve a noble objective such as making peace work in broad daylight and do not hide behind closed doors and rooms.

## Further on Secret Talks Proposal

*JN0205140595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 May 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that Syria is committed to the peace process. He added that he will discuss new ideas with U.S. President Clinton in Washington. In a later statement, however, Rabin said the problem with Syria is that it rejects secret talks. Among other things, Rabin said he is not in a hurry and that he will not conclude peace at any price, in a clear reference to Syria's demand for the withdrawal of Israeli forces to the 4 June 1967 lines. Rabin also said: We should be prepared for war in the absence of any other option.

Rabin's statements show the contradiction in the stands of the Israeli officials. It is common knowledge that peace is linked to Israel's full withdrawal. The Tel Aviv rulers have not yet made a decisive decision to withdraw. Such a decision is the only one that can open the doors wide for peace in the Middle East.

Certainly, the problem does not lie in Syria's rejection of secret talks. It lies in Israel's nonfulfillment of the obligations of a just and comprehensive peace, the resolutions of the Security Council, and the essence of the U.S. initiative, namely, exchanging land for peace.

Syria has spelled out its position very clearly since the U.S. initiative was first launched. Syria has been careful to receive from Washington clear assurances about two basic issues. First, the exchange of land for peace. Second, the fact that peace should include all the fronts of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Israel has repeatedly called for holding secret talks, since it views such talks as a means to circumvent the Security Council resolutions that organize the peace process and to circumvent the U.S. assurances. By doing so, Israel seeks to arrive at a distorted, truncated agreement akin to the Oslo accord. Syria, on the other hand, adheres to the current talks that are sponsored by the United States, so as to reaffirm the principles of the Madrid conference, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the U.S. assurances. Syria has nothing else to add in any secret talks to what it says in the Washington talks. Therefore, Israel's call for separate and secret talks is only a maneuver to escape the obligations of a just and comprehensive peace, primarily, full withdrawal from the Golan and return to the 4 June lines.

The observers who follow the statements of Israeli officials and their repeated talk about the price of peace are amazed. This is because the Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial. It is also an integral part of Syria's geography and history. Israel occupied this territory by force; therefore, its withdrawal from it does not constitute any concession or a price to be paid by it. Its withdrawal will establish justice, since it is in

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compliance with Security Council resolutions and responds to the principles of the Madrid conference.

Resolution 242 of 1967 calls for Israel's full withdrawal and the elimination of the traces of aggression. This resolution has remained mere ink on paper. This is because the Tel Aviv rulers have opted for aggression, expansion, and defiance of the international community's principles and charters. Syria, therefore, had no other choice but to defend its territory and rights and oppose the Israeli attempts at military control.

The October war of liberation of 1973 made it clear to everybody that Syria does not tolerate injustice or submit to aggression and that it is willing to make sacrifices to restore its land and rights. When former U.S President George Bush launched his Middle East peace initiative, Syria was very careful to emphasize that it wants to restore all of the Golan and all the Arab rights and that it will not relinquish a grain of its territory. Syria insists on comprehensive peace in the region—one that ends Israeli occupation and restores rights.

Syria has reaffirmed this stand to U.S. President Bill Clinton. We can say that the United States understands Syria's fair and legitimate demands. The United States has repeatedly acknowledged that Syria is serious about peace and that it is working steadfastly for it.

The Israeli prime minister has acknowledged that Syria is committed to the peace process. The Syrian-Israeli talks, however, have so far not yielded any results. This is because Israel has not complied with the principles of the peace process and is still maneuvering and procrastinating when it comes to Syria's fair demand for full withdrawal from the Golan.

In view of this, we should say that if the ideas carried by Rabin do not include full withdrawal, then they will only complicate matters further. The Israeli prime minister should respond to the principles of a just peace, instead of wasting time and effort in useless maneuvers or by making war threats. These threats do not affect at all Syria's firm adherence to the restoration of the soil of the Golan in full and to fraternal Lebanon's restoration of its occupied south.

### Jordanian Boycott of Israeli Reception Noted

*JN0505075095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—For the first time ever [in Amman], the Israeli Embassy held a reception on the anniversary of the so-called creation of Israel this evening. The reception was boycotted by all Jordanian officials, ministers, deputies, and senators. The Jordanian official representation at the reception was confined to Ambassador Samir Masariwah, chief of protocol at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry. Jordanian journalists as well as popular, union, and party figures also boycotted the reception.

Israeli Ambassador Shim'on Shamir gave a short speech at the reception, which was attended only by foreign diplomats. The only Arab ambassador attending was the Egyptian ambassador. Shamir said that as of next Sunday [7 May], Israel-Jordanian agreements in the areas of agriculture, environment, trade, and energy will be signed in implementation of the treaty which was signed between the two parties last October.

Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Marwan al-Mu'ashshir had earlier said that the Jordanian people need a long time to accept the peace treaty. In a statement to Israeli Radio today after congratulating Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman on the anniversary of the so-called creation of Israel, al-Mu'ashshir described what was achieved between Israel and Jordan as extremely important.

### Khaddam, Assembly Speaker Meet Parliamentarians

*JN0405134595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam today received (Yanis Sakilaryo), vice chairman of the European Parliament's Orient Committee, and (Nadia Van Han), vice chairman of the European Parliament's International Relations Committee.

The meeting was attended by (Alain Adam), the EU ambassador in Damascus, and Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the People's Assembly's Arab and Foreign Relations Committee.

Conversation during the meeting revolved around relations between Syria and the EU, Middle East developments, and the peace process.

Also today, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah received (Yanis Sakilaryo), vice chairman of the European Parliament's Orient Committee and the official spokesman of the Socialist group at the Parliament. Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the People's Assembly's Arab and Foreign Relations Committee, and the EU ambassador in Damascus attended.

Conversation during the meeting revolved around relations between the European Parliament and the Syrian People's Assembly, regional developments, and the peace process. Mr. Sakilaryo stressed that the European Parliament supports a just and compregensive peace in the region based on the UN Security Council resolutions.

People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah spoke about Syria's position on the peace process. He expressed satisfaction with the progress of relations between the European Parliament and Syria in the effort to realize a common dialogue between Europe and the Arab states.

### Column Underlines Need To Increase Exports

*JN0405141195 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 8 Apr 95 p 8*

["Economic Analysis" by Jihad al-Na'san: "Facts About Exports"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Despite all the efforts to increase exports, exportation in our country remains a secondary or complementary activity. Much harm could be done to our national economy if we do not give exportation the importance it deserves and make it a major national task. There are several reasons for this:

First: The increasing economic activity to meet the needs of local industries and the citizens has resulted in large increases in imports. Therefore, any curtailment of imports will necessarily lead to the emergence of black markets, making citizens pay double prices. Besides, the world climate is now moving toward the liberation of trade and the removal of all restrictions on the free movement of goods and commodities. Thus, restriction of imports will not be the ideal solution, although we need it in some cases.

Second: We have a negative balance of trade, meaning that we have not managed to fund our imports from our exports. This is a weak point we must overcome. The existence of a gap between exports and imports causes great pressure on the supply and demand for foreign currencies and the Syrian pound. In the end, this gap leads to pumping more Syrian pounds into the market and reducing the value of the national currency. Eventually, it defeats government policy to maintain the value of the Syrian pound against foreign currencies. A further widening of the gap might even prompt the government to curtail imports, which means black markets would revisit us.

Third: Oil is a significant part, and an extremely high percentage, of our exports. But oil is an exhaustible commodity. Therefore, unless we start to think about how to increase our foreign currency revenues from tourism and exports, our economy will suffer immensely in the future. Some of our exports are mineral resources or unprocessed agricultural crops, such as raw cotton. Our processed exports are still an insignificant part of the bulk of our exports.

Fourth: The large surpluses attained in production cannot be absorbed by the local market. Therefore, we must turn to exportation as the only solution that guarantees the continuous operation of our industries and the sale of our production.

Thus, we see from all these reasons that there is definite need to concentrate on increasing exports. Such a step will not be achieved by declaring intentions or making optimistic statements, but by taking several measures that will make exportation a top priority.

Increasing exports calls for seriously examining the factors that add to the production cost of our local products and encouraging all sectors to introduce modern technology in industry, agriculture, and other sectors and improve the specifications of products, without causing a sharp increase in the cost.

All this calls for eliminating routine and bureaucracy, encouraging exporters, canceling taxes that add to the prices of exports, and pursuing a flexible policy that encourages contact with foreign markets, and opening up these markets to Syrian products. This should be the general concern of all government ministries and quarters, without exception.

If there is a final word to be said, we say that it has become essential to encourage exports, create a suitable investment climate, liberate trade, and improve our banks and productive establishments. All these essential steps must be taken to achieve the thriving economy we seek.

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## Afghanistan

### Regime Clears Ghowr Province of Taleban Group

*LD0405182395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] During a successful operation launched by the mojahedin and forces of the Islamic Army, a large area in Ghowr Province was cleared of the pseudo-Taleban group.

Reports reaching BAKHTAR say that the areas of Somak, Zardali, Bahari, Akhta Khana, and Taghi Temur were cleared of the rebel pseudo-Taleban group as a result of the operation that was launched last night and continued until this morning by forces of the Islamic Army and the mojahedin, together with the esteemed ulema led by Mowlawi Salim Khalili, head of Islamic Guidance.

As a result of this operation, seven of the pseudo-Taleban were killed, and another four of them were captured. Two 82-mm mortars, 100 boxes of DShK ammunition, and a large amount of various ammunition were seized by the mojahedin. During the course of this successful operation, one man from the mojahedin of the path of righteousness was martyred, and another two were wounded.

### Regime Jets Bomb Taleban Forces in Maydan Shar

*LD0405194395 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kabul administration's warplanes heavily bombarded Taleban positions in Maydan Shar yesterday.

According to reports from Maydan Shar, Kabul administration jets bombarded Taleban positions several times yesterday morning. The exact loss of life and material caused by the bombardment has not yet been reported.

A source from Taleban says that, prior to the bombardment, the forces of Kabul administration attacked their positions in Paghman and Arghandi. This attack was repulsed by the Taleban.

Fierce fighting has also broken out between the forces of Commander Esmail Khan and Taleban in Ghowr Province and in a region in Farahrud. Both sides have reported on this fighting. A Kabul administration source says that an attack by the Taleban group had been repulsed in Ghowr Province, and a large number of Taleban were killed or wounded. The Taleban group rejects the Kabul administration's claim and says that they achieved enormous victories in Ghowr Province.

Regarding the stoppage of fuel supplies to the Kabul administration, a spokesman from the Taleban group said during an interview that this action has been taken because the Kabul administration uses the fuel to bombard the areas under Taleban's control.

### Radio Message of Freedom Head on Political Situation

*LD0305195395 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 3 May 95*

[Interview with Mohammad Nazir Besharat, head of Radio Message of Freedom, by an unidentified announcer; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Esteemed Mohammad Nazir Besharat, could you please shed some light on the current political- military situation in the country? How do you assess the possibilities for a solution to the crisis in the country?

[Besharat] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Before the emergence of the Taleban movement, or rather their advance on Kabul, the possibility of a solution to the crisis in Afghanistan was manifest more than ever. Its reasons were that, as a successful experience, the High Coordination Council [HCC] had passed through its evolutionary stages. The atmosphere of trust and coordination was assured among them more than ever. The process of military cooperation among its members had developed. It had practical and realistic proposals about the country's problems. The Kabul administration, which was in opposition to the HCC, was under various pressures and under a siege. It had received many military blows.

The situation was such that the path they had chosen was not a path of success, and they could not achieve anything through that path. So it should have reviewed its policies and methods and eventually accepted a realistic solution to the problems of Afghanistan. A large part of Kabul was in the hands of the HCC forces, and the HCC forces controlled all highways. All groups that were involved in finding a solution to the Afghan crisis believed that the stance of the HCC leadership in connection with the solution of the Afghan crisis was realistic and practical. It was not based on seeking special concessions for itself. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, peace missions were working with full vigor and speed in those days. The common point was that the power should be transferred to a neutral person who would supervise the process of holding elections. Eventually an administration should be set up, with the participation of all forces, that would be able to restore peace in Afghanistan and have leadership authority. The missions had made good progress. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, with the emergence of Taleban, not only the peace process failed to make progress, but the fighting intensified as well. The fighting now acquires the grave form that was fading due to the vision of the leadership of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and other leaders of the HCC—the form that was based on drawing people into fighting on the basis of tribes, races, regions, and languages. Unfortunately, this issue has revived once again, now and on top of other problems. [passage omitted]

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The advances of the Kabul administration does not mean that they are powerful, but it is the outcome of certain factors and mistakes. It will be a great mistake, I believe, to perceive that they can rule Afghanistan on their own. Similarly, the Taleban should forget about becoming the sole power in Afghanistan. It is completely impossible. The Kabul administration cannot continue to exist. [passage omitted]

All powers should make efforts before it is too late. Relying on aliens and acting on the advice of aliens cannot resolve the problems. Eventually, all will accept the proposal of the Hezb-e Eslami leadership; that is, the problem should be resolved through understanding based on strong principles. The right of going to the views of this nation must be guaranteed, as a result of which a government should be established that is a legal one that enjoys the support of the nation and is not against anyone but is a government of all. This was my analysis of the situation.

[Announcer] My other question is about the stance of Hezb-e Eslami on the current situation. What will be its role in the future?

[Besharat] As it has been stated by the leaders of Hezb-e Eslami, it is a policy of wait and see and of reorganizing its forces [words indistinct]. The people will soon see that Hezb-e Eslami will have a resolute role in the solution of the country's problems. At the moment, the situation is such that both sides have contacted it, and these contacts continue. It looks into different issues, including the conditions of both sides. It is foolish to think that Hezb-e Eslami has been weakened or driven from the scene. This idea has also been reflected in the world press. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] My last question is about the relations of the Hezb-e Eslami with the Kabul administration and the Taleban.

[Besharat] I told you before that both sides have established contacts with Hezb-e Eslami, and the contacts continue in various shapes. As I told you before, Hezb-e Eslami has not made a specific decision so far. We will, however, have an active, peaceful, and positive role in the issues related to our country. We will take under consideration the views of both sides. [words indistinct] All our efforts will be directed to the fact of how we can play a role in the restoration of peace and the cessation of war. Our efforts will be based on the situation and conditions in the future, and the choice will be made, taking into consideration those facts. Thank you.

## India

### Editorial Criticizes U.S. for Stand on IPR

*BK0305133595 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 2 May 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "We Are Also Democratic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has again threatened to place India under Super 301 trade sanctions to enforce the U.S. intellectual property rights [IPR] law. For a long time, the United States has been putting pressure on India to promulgate the patent law in accordance with U.S. intellectual property rights laws. Earlier, the United States had placed India on the Super 301 priority list. Countries placed on this list have additional U.S. duty imposed on their goods to control their imports. India was later removed from the priority list and placed on the priority watch list because the process to alter India's patent law had begun. There are many other countries or organizations presently on this watch list including the European Union, Japan, Greece, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and South Korea. U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor has given a similar warning to other countries in his 1995 report.

The United States is well aware of the strong opposition in India to the U.S. insistence to implement an intellectual property rights law. Many farm leaders have warned the Indian Government of the dreadful consequences as a result of the likely adverse impact to Indian agriculture. Many people in India are of the view that we shall be severely handicapped in the biodiversity field if we give in to this strong U.S. pressure. Despite this danger, India tried to formulate a new patent law in an effort to implement its agreement with the World Trade Organization. Aware of the stiff resistance to the patent law, the government shrewdly tabled it only in the Lok Sabha (lower house) and the law passed without adequate debate. However, the ruling party—that is, the Congress—is in the minority in the Rajya Sabha (upper house) and opposition parties refused to toe the government line on the issue. It is not that the opposition parties are totally against this law, but they want the government to ensure India's interests are guaranteed, especially in the biodiversity sector and other related fields, through some legal measures before the new patent law is passed. In order to get a consensus opinion on the issue, the government has postponed the law's passage through the Rajya Sabha for the time being.

It is surprising that the U.S. Administration fails to appreciate that India is also a democratic country and it is impossible for any government to overlook its national interests and make a decision. No progress on the patent law is possible until the peoples' misgivings and objections regarding intellectual property rights are dispelled. Still, if the United States continues to exert undue pressure, it might have a totally negative effect in India. Moreover, in such an event, the people resisting U.S. pressure might become more stubborn in their attitude. The United States must realize that the modern world cannot be forced to safeguard only U.S. interests. The economic hooliganism that the United States is trying to perpetrate is going to prove severely self-damaging in the long term. In view of the present political circumstances prevailing in India, it is imperative for the government to seek a consensus opinion on almost every issue. Under existing conditions, even if some law is forcibly passed, it

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would be very difficult if not impossible to implement it because different political parties are in power in different states. Considering these vital factors, the United States must think twice before taking any action against India under the Super 301 trade law.

## Article Reviews Regional Problems, SAARC

*BK0405153995 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 29 Apr 95 p 8*

[Article by Nikhil Chakravartty: "If India Fails, Can SAARC Succeed?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the leaders of the seven SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries gather in New Delhi for a summit-level meeting this week, it provides an appropriate occasion for dispassionate reflections about our country's problems with our neighbours in South Asia.

The SAARC by its charter does not take up for consideration disputes among the member-countries of the organisation, which are supposed to be sorted out on a bilateral basis between the concerned countries. However, one can hardly take a strictly formal, legalistic view of a get-together meant to promote interaction through interface. There are plenty of opportunities among heads of governments and states when they get together to take up specific issues and explore means for dealing with them.

In any event, the SAARC summit imposes upon us all, the people of this country, to look at some of the issues that bedevil our relations with our neighbours in South Asia. Even if the protocol does not provide for such dialogues in a multilateral gathering, it would be dishonest on the part of our Prime Minister and his Government not to take up at least the question of initiating dialogue on bilateral issues of dispute and dissonance. Whether in the recesses between the formal plenary session at New Delhi or in the more congenial conviviality of the retreat at Shimla, there would be plenty of opportunities for the Prime Minister to buttonhole his counterparts from the neighbouring countries and fix the process of resumption of dialogue to take up the thorny issues that beset them.

Inevitably, the relations between Pakistan and India predominate. These two, the largest of the seven nations in the region, have historically emerged as the very axis of any durable structure of regional peace and cooperation. As things stand, the persistent acrimony in the relations between the two countries goes a long way towards hampering any worthwhile regional cooperation, just as any improvement in Indo-Pakistan relations will decisively contribute towards building South Asian regional cooperation. It is amazing that nearly 50 years after partitioning of the subcontinent under the British, the estrangement between the two countries has been intensified. Although the origin of most of the items of disputes between the two countries can be traced back to the tragic fallout of Partition, it would be unfair if we do not concede our share towards the worsening of relationship between our two countries.

### Futile to blame Pakistan

The virtual blockade on all forms of public intercourse—from inequitous restrictions on travel to the calculated blocking of any dissemination of newspapers and books, videos and films—it is indeed a fantastic display of sustaining the image of a monster across the frontier on both sides; a situation which almost puts in the shade the Cold War model of fostering hostility between two countries. In the creation of this insanity fair of Indo-Pak antipathy, Kashmir stands out as the centrepiece. Through three long decades, we have allowed the simmering discontent to grow into unmanageable militancy for secession—not a flattering record for a democracy, no matter what the nature and dimension of provocations both internally and externally.

Particularly in the last five years, the militancy has taken a guerrilla form against the Government forces—a clear sign of virtual insurgency—which no amount of military might can really quell. What has throughout been called for is a bold and sustained bid for a political solution which calls for, in the first instance, talks with the militant groups, no matter how difficult this may appear at the beginning. Without a serious effort in this direction, it would be futile to blame Pakistan as being solely responsible for the crisis.

One sometimes hears that New Delhi is keen on setting other points of dispute with Pakistan, and it is suggested that these will change the environ for a settlement of the Kashmir dispute—a position that Islamabad is alleged to be unwilling to accept. One wonders however why our Government cannot take the unilateral initiative of withdrawal from Siachen and scrapping the odious visa restrictions.

With Bangladesh, our Government has been grievously remiss in making no effort at all to settle the Ganga water dispute. The same policy that was pursued in the 1950s and 60s of barracking a settlement with the then Pakistan Government over the Farakka barrage controversy, has been studiously followed ever since. When Bangladesh was founded, the new Government under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was urged to accept a tentative arrangement for the sharing of the Ganga water until a more thorough and enduring settlement of the question was found.

### Avoid the Absurdity

Since then, no effort has been made to seriously settle the burning question of water supply for an entirely agriculture-based economy as Bangladesh happens to be. Rather, the Bangladesh complaint has been that the ratio of water sharing has been changed for the worse for them. There is no gainsaying the fact that Bangladesh today is badly in need of water to sustain its economy. As the bigger neighbour, it is India's duty to help Bangladesh in this matter, and for that there should be close

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understanding with the neighbouring Nepal, if not China as well, since one of the principal rivers of the country, Brahmaputra, flows through all the three countries.

With Nepal, India's relations have undergone ups and downs. Since the inauguration of democracy there, the opportunity for better ties has certainly improved. At the same time one can hardly brush aside Nepal's demand for revision of the 1950 treaty arrangements for trade and transit. It is urgently necessary that the matter is frankly discussed and measures taken to rectify any imbalance or feeling of injustices on the part of Kathmandu.

India's relations with Bhutan are generally regarded as being without any strain. However, Nepal's feeling that the thousands of Nepalese who have had to leave Bhutan because of persecution by the King's men, constitutes an explosive element in the situation which New Delhi can hardly afford to ignore.

With Sri Lanka, the relations between New Delhi and Colombo have demonstratively improved. President Chandrika Kumaratunga's courageous initiative in opening a dialogue with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has led some sections here to question how she will reconcile her talks with the LTTE with her objective of strengthening relations with India, since the LTTE leader, Mr V Prabhakaran, is wanted in connection with the conspiracy behind the Rajiv Gandhi assassination. It would be absurd to make this into an issue to jeopardise in any manner the marked improvement in our relations with Sri Lanka at this stage.

What all this indicates is the amazing lack of any concerted policy on the part of our present Government for reinforcing cooperation among South Asian states. The tendency of fighting shy of any decision that calls for courage and determination is at the root of this disconcerting position for our country in the regional context. If the Rao Government's persistent avoidance to take decisions on major issues facing it at home has turned out to be a liability, it will play havoc in our dealing with our close neighbours in South Asia.

## Commentary Hails Results of SAARC

*BK0505120095 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 5 May 95*

[Commentary by T.V. Venkatachalam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The association of the South Asian nations for regional cooperation, SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], at its eighth summit in New Delhi took decisive steps to promote regional cooperation by concentrating on economic and social issues of great relevance to the people of South Asia. The decision to inaugurate SAPTA, the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement, before the end of the year and the targets set for poverty eradication were major achievements for which the summit leaders could be proud of. Equally significant is the resolve to tackle the scourge of terrorism which is affecting many nations. As India's prime minister, Mr. P. V. Narsimha Rao, who assumed the chairmanship of the grouping, summed it up, the decisions reflected the resolve to ensure peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. The similarities of the problems facing their societies made it possible for the leaders of the seven member countries—India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, and the Maldives—to arrive at a consensus on spelling out the grouping's economic and social priorities.

At the political level, however, bilateral differences, particularly between India and Pakistan, came in the way of an acceptable formulation being evolved. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and other leaders recognized that political impetus was necessary to promote and sustain economic cooperation. President Farooq Leghari of Pakistan and Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari of Nepal suggested that the SAARC forum should be used to bridge political differences among the member states. While SAARC does not have a role in settling bilateral issues, the Sri Lankan president, Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga, and King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan rightly pointed out that the SAARC gatherings afforded the opportunity for political interaction among the leaders. Mr. Narasimha Rao noted at the end of the conference that in the absence of consensus the time has not come for the inclusion of bilateral matters in the SAARC Charter.

The Delhi Declaration, adopted unanimously by the summit, specifically reaffirmed the commitment of the SAARC leaders for eradication of poverty in South Asia, preferably by the year 2002 AD. The agenda of action to achieve this goal should contain both country-specific programs as well as international efforts. The Delhi Declaration underlined the importance of the recent world summit on social development in this respect. The basic needs of the people—particularly in respect of food, work, shelter, health, education resources, and information—have to be attended to implement the commitment.

The framework agreement on SAPTA had been signed at the seventh summit of the grouping at Dhaka in 1993. The trade concessions negotiated among member nations mark only a modest beginning toward the dismantling of intraregional tariff walls. SAPTA will be operational by the end of 1995, as mandated by the member nations, marking a milestone for SAARC as it completes its first decade. The SAARC steps for enhancing regional cooperation fits in with the general international trend. Powerful regional groupings like the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN—or the emerging Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC—seek to ensure that their member countries fare well in the competitive global economy. SAARC has to develop fast in this respect. Mr.

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Narasimha Rao pointed out that 21st century is predicted to be the Asian Century. South Asia should become a part of the resurgence and not become a backwater of Asia.

The concern expressed by the SAARC leaders on the spread of terrorism inside and outside the region was reflected in the unequivocal condemnation of all the evils. The declaration emphasized that the highest priority should be accorded to the enactment of enabling legislation at the national level to give effect to the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. Some of the members, including India, have enacted legislation to implement the convention. The others were asked to expedite the enactment of the enabling legislation.

The summit decisions will be followed up at ministerial and expert levels in the next two years so that the ninth summit to be hosted by Maldives can confidently carry the torch of regional cooperation forward.

### Rao Asks Japan To Back APEC Inclusion

*OW0205103895 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 22 Apr 95 Morning Edition p 1*

[Report by Shinichi Suzuki]

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi, 21 Apr—"India wants to join the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum," Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao said on 21 April. In an exclusive interview given at Rao's office in New Delhi to Kazuhiko Mimori, chief of NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN's Asia Department, Rao disclosed his desire to seek India's membership in APEC, and called for support from the Japanese Government, the APEC host for 1995. Regarding the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), whose extension is now under debate at the United Nations, Rao repeatedly noted that it is an "unequal treaty," but he clarified that India has no concern over the results of UN debates. He said that the NPT has to be completely revised, saying "the NPT must be acceptable for all nations in the world."

Prime Minister Rao stressed that "India's participation in APEC will benefit both APEC members and India," noting "54 percent of foreign investments in India come from the APEC region." He said, on that ground, that "Japan, as the host nation of APEC, is expected to promote open-minded regionalism, and to support India's joining APEC." He added that India and ASEAN "have just opened a new page in interregional relations," noting he will visit Malaysia and some other ASEAN nations before the end of this year to strengthen economic relations with them.

India has long been refusing to join the NPT despite the demands of the United States. Referring to this issue, Rao said "we have not joined the NPT because it is an unequal treaty." He said that India opposes the present framework of the NPT, urging the formation of a new framework of nuclear disarmament involving all nuclear-armed nations, including the United States, Russia, and three other major nations.

### Report Cites Benefits From Inclusion

*BK0305134295 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Apr 95 p 13*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI—India has said several countries in the 18-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) have indicated their 'support' for its membership of this emerging economic grouping, reports PTI.

These countries have agreed to back India when the issue of its membership is taken by the group, according to the 1994-95 annual report of the Union External Affairs Ministry. The report, however, did not identify these countries.

The report said India would continue to convey its interest in joining the fledgling APEC and to demonstrate the mutuality of benefit in such a move as part of its attempts to establish closer economic ties with the fast growing economies of East Asia and the Pacific region.

APEC countries account for 45 per cent of Indian exports, 30 per cent of its imports and 54 per cent of foreign direct investment (FDI) since January last.

"India's joining the APEC would confer numerous benefits to both sides and it has been the ministry's efforts to put this across to the APEC countries," the report said.

India's request for APEC membership is pending along with those of Russia, Argentina, Peru, Israel and Iran since a moratorium on admission of additional members is in force till November next year.

The report said a preliminary proposal on modalities of APEC membership policy and other associated issues is to be presented for consideration later this year. The APEC economies account for 48 per cent of the world's GNP and 40 per cent of the world trade.

It further said that Indian interests needed to be taken into account and safeguarded although the free trade declaration adopted at the first APEC summit last year provided for a two-track approach for developed and developing countries.

The declaration also averred that the APEC would not be an inward-looking trade bloc and would give particular attention to its trade with non-APEC developing economies.

The report, while outlining India's policy towards various regional groups, also expressed the country's desire to be associated with the deliberations of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) since it was an immediate neighbour of South-East Asia sharing common security concerns.

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The general question of expanding ARF membership is under the consideration of the ASEAN countries.

The report said Singapore had been fully supportive of India's quest for a deeper involvement with South-East Asia whether in the form of full dialogue partnership with the ASEAN, or membership of the ARF and APEC. The first meeting of ARF took place in Bangkok in July last year.

India's exports to South-East Asia was in the range of Rs [rupees] 5,500 crore which was a little less than 10 per cent of its global exports.

## Iran

### Further Reactions to U.S. Emargo

#### Nateq-Nuri Says Embargo 'Good Omen'

*LD0405191795 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1815 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Parliament Speaker Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Nateq-Nuri, on the second day of his tour to the western province of Lorestan, today arrived in Borujerd city.

Later, speaking to a large group of people in the city, Mr. Nateq-Nuri thanked the nation for their active presence on all scenes of the Islamic revolution. He said: Such lively presence has made the parliament members much more resolute to pursue their main responsibility of defending the revolution's holy causes and values to the last drop of their blood.

Referring to the province's potentials and resources, Mr. Nateq-Nuri emphasized on the need for more precise planning to accelerate the development pace there.

Pointing to the supreme leader's recent remarks over Washington's anti-Iranian stance, the parliament speaker said: The new U.S. trade embargoes should be viewed as a good omen by the nation, since our past experiences have proven that whenever the Iranians have been put in difficulty, they have promoted their solidarity and allowed talents within them to thrive, and this has moved the Iranian nation faster towards self-sufficiency.

#### Va'ezi: Tehran 'Will Never Yield'

*LD0405171395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mahmud Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for European and U.S. Affairs, referred to the U.S. President's recent statements in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent. He said: Iran's trade relations with European and Asian countries have been formed on the basis of reciprocal interests. That is why America's pressure will affect the trade interests of Iran's partners.

Referring to the dominant conditions in the international community, Va'ezi said: U.S. ringleaders must realize that conditions in the world today are different from those in the past. Iran, with its strong economy and its strategic and sensitive position, will never yield to U.S. pressures.

#### Basij Force Issues Communique

*LD0405172095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Following statements by Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, regarding the new U.S. plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Basij mobilization force, attached to the Islamic Revolutions Guards Corp, published a communique in support of the esteemed leader's statement.

The communique said: The severing of relations with the U.S. will definitely encourage the heroic Iranian nation, the Guards, and the brave Basij members across the country to rely on the infinite strength of God in order to discover their own blessed potential and to stand up, in joyful effort, to end dependency and to obtain comprehensive independence. They should also adhere to the orders and the guidance of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and follow the shining path of Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, in order to provide the possibility of full liberation from world arrogance and hegemonic order to Muslim nations.

#### Boycott Viewed as 'Zionist Decision'

*NC0405171495 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 May 95 p 12*

[Political commentary: "The White House Under Zionist Occupation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. President Bill Clinton announced his latest decisions to step up economic embargoes against Iran at the World Jewish Congress in New York with the Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by his side. The nature of the decision and its time and place exactly proves the truth of the analysis by commentators who believe that all the pressure exerted on the Islamic Republic of Iran is being implemented under the guidance and direction of the Zionists.

The reasons announced by Clinton for the adoption of such a decision also testify to the truth of this assertion. He has stressed that the objective of this action is to "fight Iran for its support for the opponents of Middle East peace." Clinton means the same traitorous process that has been implemented over the past three and a half years in the form of sacrificing the honor and prestige of the Arabs before the criminal Israeli Government with the joint front of the United States and Israel on the one hand and all the Arab governments of the Middle East on the other.

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The latest decision by Clinton against the Islamic Republic of Iran has once again proved to what extent the decisionmaking centers of the United States are under the political influence and sway of the Zionists who for many years have exerted very decisive leverage in the White House, Congress, Senate, the press, and the vital and key sources in U.S. society.

Of the 11 members of the U.S. National Security Council, which is considered the most influential and important of the U.S. decisionmaking centers, seven are Zionists and occupy the most important posts as regards security and foreign policy affairs. Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, and Alexander Haig who are former Secretaries of State and many other high-level officials in the hierarchy in the past two decades, have been Jews. Currently, the U.S. president's adviser in Middle East and South Asian affairs is actually an Israeli; Martin Indyk, who was adviser to the former Zionist regime's minister Yitzhaq Shamir for many years.

Thus, it is very obvious that Clinton's decisions, especially in the sphere of foreign policy, pass through the filter of the Zionists and by means of its influential elements in the U.S. decisionmaking centers, Israel easily implements its distinctive political aims.

The extent of the Zionists' power and influence in the Congress and the Senate merits attention. The most important means that is used by the Zionists to exert their influence on the votes and the decisions of the U.S. Congress is their dominance over the mass media. Nearly 80 percent of the U.S. media, which comprise three major television networks as well as the main widely-circulated newspapers, is under the Zionists. Whenever they see that a prominent government official is not working toward their interests, they seek out his weak points and strive to undermine his credibility and denigrate him.

One can get an insight into the policies and leanings of the Zionists and how far the decisions adopted by the White House are based on them because of this influence wielded by the Zionists.

Even though the intensification of the economic embargoes against the Islamic Republic of Iran is an entirely Zionist decision, like all previous decisions it has been adopted without any attention to the economic strength that Iran enjoys on the international level. The fact is that the implementation of an oil embargo against Iran by the United States will benefit the European oil companies, while the U.S. oil companies will sustain massive losses.

Naturally, the U.S. Democrats and the supporters of the Zionists will have to compensate for these losses. On the other hand, the implementation of Clinton's decree especially to U.S. oil companies to refrain from purchasing oil from Iran will generate disruptions in the international oil market.

Some political observers link the implementation of the boycott against Iran to U.S. domestic problems and construe it as an effort to divert the public from the recent explosion in Oklahoma. They state that such actions will have no other result but to endanger the interests of the U.S. energy-supplying companies and the Washington administration which is under pressure from the Zionists will not achieve its objectives.

This boycott will reduce the competitive edge of U.S. oil firms and companies. The U.S. Government's decision against the Islamic Republic of Iran—according to one of the oil analysts—for a boycott of Iran will result in the oil being purchased through European and Japanese companies and consequently, Iran will not lose anything.

### Daily: Threats 'Nothing But a Jest'

*LD0405202295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1910 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The first article in this program is a summary of today's lead article in the RESALAT daily entitled: "What Does the Enemy Think About?"

The writer, describing U.S. plots against the Islamic revolution, writes: Today there is no one who does not know that meticulous programs have been planned and executed by the enemies, with the U.S. leading them, for destroying the sovereignty of Islam. A bill introduced recently in the U.S. congress states: We must exert pressure on Iran to the extent that they have to choose between having their cake and eating it. From the Americans' point of view, Iran is the only center on the face of the earth that can spoil the realization of their wish to become the leaders of the world. That is why, according to their belief, it is necessary to put pressure on this country with various weapons.

In another part of the lead article, there is an analysis of the United States' performance, which states: The wretched Americans are merely pounding water, because their threats to a country that possesses wealth, talented and competent manpower, as well as rich resources, is nothing but a jest.

Finally, the article commends the proud Iranian nation to tighten their belts and, through being content, to economize, produce more, and consume less in order to prevent the enemies of the Islamic system from succeeding.

### Halting of All U.S. Dealings Suggested

*NC0405195995 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 26 Apr 95 p 2*

[Editorial: "The United States—Another Defeat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Clinton is surrounded by Israeli advisers." This was stated by the director of a major oil company who warned the U.S. President against adopting wrong decisions, including that of an economic boycott against Iran.

The director of the large Coastal oil company warned Clinton that if such incorrect economic policies were

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adopted by the White House against Iran, the United States would be the real loser. There are numerous European countries that are awaiting the day when they can fill the gap left by the United States as regards oil and commercial dealings with Iran. In such an event, the U.S. oil behemoths would prefer to leave U.S. soil in order to avoid the penalty for violation of such sanctions and would transfer their offices to Europe or other locations.

He addressed Clinton articulately and stressed: "I know full well that numbers two and three in the National Security Council [NSC] of the United States are avid supporters of Israel and guide you in how to conduct trade relations with Iran, Libya, and Iraq despite the fact that the NSC should not become the scene of activity of the supporters of Israel."

This is the first time that the murmurings of opposition against the multilateral influence of the Zionists and "the men from Israel" have been disseminated so overtly and lucidly and in such a public manner. Earlier, the U.S. public had also displayed a reaction against the unprincipled clout of the Zionists in the U.S. decision-making centers, which increases day by day, but such a categorical and explicit warning is a new phenomenon in American society and indicates that the consequences and fallout from interference by Zionists in the U.S. economy and politics is so serious that the U.S. people and the magnates cannot easily ignore it or maintain silence on the subject.

As to what the ultimate result of such a phenomenon will be is not the subject of our critique today. The most significant issue today is that the United States has encountered failure and impotence right at the outset of the new era of embargoes and a psychological war against the Islamic Republic of Iran that it has initiated. The situation is such that even the industrial magnates and directors of oil conglomerates have chosen to break their silence and overtly warn the White House against its erroneous policies and their repercussions.

Even if the director of this oil company had not issued such a warning, it was quite clear that the men from Israel are at the helm of the ship of U.S. foreign policy today and are even prepared to deliberately run the ship of the White House's policies aground to ensure their own interests. Conditions are such today that even U.S. industrial magnates can issue warnings to Clinton regarding the repercussions of such policies and reprimand him for such inexperienced actions.

In such circumstances, the value, the credence, and the importance of the firm, logical, and solid statement issued by our president delineating the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance regarding the mistaken U.S. policies is heightened. Such a meaningful statement once again elucidates the strong stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the latest psychological war by the United States and underlines the fact that Islamic Iran can end the existing level of economic relations whenever it deems appropriate.

Today, the surfacing of the signs that indicate the failure of Washington's extortionist policies once again highlights the need for a severance of the current economic status quo at one fell swoop. It is now the moment of truth for the officials of our system to make a decision in this regard and the best opportunity for neutralizing the U.S. plots has been presented by the enemy himself.

If Clinton has annulled the Conoco deal it would be better if all the economic, commercial, and oil agreements with U.S. companies were reappraised and all these were then revoked.

Today, it is time to deal a blow to the United States and the Washington echelons. They should realize that in the circumstances of a tormenting economic crisis wracking the United States, they are not in a situation to score points with Islamic Iran and to reiterate the demands of the Zionists to silence Iran on the subject of Zionism's atrocities. A wiser decision in this regard would be to terminate the economic, commercial, and oil dealings which would further expose the mistaken policies of Clinton and today is the best opportunity for making such a decision.

### Swedish Firm To Continue Work Despite U.S. Embargo

*LD0305222995 Tehran IRNA in English 2133 GMT 3 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, May 3, IRNA—Swedish construction company, Skanska International Building Company, will continue its work in Iran despite rumours that the firm is about to stop work on the building of a five-star hotel in Tehran.

The head of Sanska public relations, Lennart [name indistinct], in an interview Wednesday [3 May] with the Swedish economic daily "DAGENS INDUSTRI" said there is no evidence that Dutch and German banks, financing the project, are planning to cancel the deal under U.S. pressure.

Skanska International Building Company and [word indistinct] consultants signed a contract [words indistinct] this year to construct the five-star hotel. The value of the project for the Swedish side is around dlrs 65 million.

### U.S. 'Worry' Over Indo-Iranian Relations Viewed

*NC0105101595 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 19 Apr 95 p 16*

[Political commentary: "The Strengthening of the Bond between Iran and India and the White House's Concern"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, when the flags of the Islamic Republic of Iran were flown on the streets of New Delhi and the sounds of "Iran! Iran!" resounded everywhere, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury could not

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conceal his envy, even in the presence of the Indian political echelons and foreign correspondents in that country!

In his meeting with Narasimha Rao, the Indian prime minister, Robert Rubin, Clinton's Secretary of Treasury [as published] reiterated his concern regarding Iran (!) and claimed to have been unaware that his visit coincided with that of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to India, otherwise he would have changed the time!

How much has the vast information system in the United States deteriorated that while President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's scheduled visit had been reflected in political circles a few days earlier, a U.S. minister should only learn of it on his arrival in New Delhi!!

The truth of the matter differs from this U.S. official's trite litany-chanting remarks. The fact is that Rubin's assignment was a defensive game in view of the recent active Iranian measures with regard to India. In other words, Clinton's objective in dispatching his treasury secretary was to assert a sort of control over the situation and, if possible, to put pressure on Indian officials as an expression of worry at the growing Indo-Iranian relations.

Therefore, whatever Rubin is doing in India is part of the propagandist policy which is being implemented under the guidance of Warren Christopher and Alfonse D'Amato, the Jewish [as published] Republican senator in Washington. This is part of the process following the approval of the plan which provides greater scope for intensifying pressure on Iran. Washington is optimistic that by capitalizing on politico-diplomatic lobbying and with its financial ploys it will be able to internalize the above plan.

Despite the above, while the industrial countries of the world such as Russia, the PRC etc., have expressed their opposition to similar proposals in this regard, feedback from Indo-Iranian friendship can become a major blow to the other White House policies.

The warm and extraordinary reception by the Indian prime minister to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his entourage at the airport, especially by the Indians and the Muslims in particular, despite the propaganda by various anti-Iranian political circles to the contrary, has heightened U.S. apprehension even further.

The closeness of the two governments' stances on the international plane and the prospects of the broadening of economic and commercial cooperation has greatly enhanced this apprehension. On the other hand, the main points of the Iranian president's address at the joint session of the Indian houses of Parliament exposed Washington's sinister designs in the international arena. In his remarks he called for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the region and the localizing of security issues.

Simultaneously, the PRC foreign minister categorically rejected his U.S. counterpart's request in New York to annul its agreement for nuclear cooperation with Iran, which will enable Iran to utilize nuclear energy within the framework of Article 2 of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]. This article permits member governments a free hand in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

On the other hand, the latest stance by the PRC can serve to boost the agreement for nuclear cooperation between Iran and Russia which has been the cause of the recent escalation of pressure on Iran.

The tumultuous welcome by the people in the city of Lucknow, the largest center of Shiite culture in India, has once again revived the specter, for the United States, of the proliferation of Islamism in the region. And finally, the signing of memoranda of cooperation in the fields of commerce and shipping among Iran, India, and Turkmenistan can be construed as the latest defeat for the United States.

Washington, which was able to threaten Azerbaijan into canceling Iran's membership in the oil consortium of that country, received a strong setback with the memoranda of cooperation signed with regard to Iranian-Indian cooperation in Central Asia which was a further defeat to U.S. policies in Afghanistan.

Washington is seeking to set up a pro-U.S. government in Kabul so that it can wrest the monopoly of trade routes from Iran which provided the scope for the growth of the Taleban group in that country.

## Commentary Views 'Difficulties' in Armenian Ties

*LD0405124895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0953 GMT 4 May 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Grant Bagratyan, the prime minister of the Republic of Armenia, is visiting Tehran at the head of a senior political-economic and cultural delegation. He is accompanied in this trip by two deputy prime ministers and the ministers of culture, health, industry, energy, and agriculture of Armenia.

The Armenian prime minister said that the most important objective of his visit to Tehran is the expansion of bilateral relations with Iran. First Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi also said in this regard: We believe that good understanding and relations with the Republic of Armenia contribute to the establishment of peace and tranquility in the region.

Central to the talks to be conducted by the Armenian prime minister and his delegation in Tehran is to review past agreements and ways of extending cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Relations between Iran and Armenia are longstanding and entered a new stage in 1991, following the independence of that republic. The visits exchanged by the two countries' senior officials prepared suitable ground for

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advancing cooperation in the economic, trade, and cultural fields, even though, in this move, some difficulties prevented the expansion of relations to the levels they were expected to reach. [passage omitted]

Today, the two countries enjoy good trade and economic relations, and these relations are growing fast. The existence of a suitable industrial and technological infrastructure in Armenia, on the one hand, and Iran's huge resources, offering services and technical and economic potential to Armenia, on the other, have made cooperation between the two countries smoother than before.

In spite of this, what is more important than anything else in relations between the two countries is that there is a need for Armenia to be prepared to accept suitable ways of resolving regional conflicts and to endeavor toward bringing about stability and security to the regions of the Caucasus and beyond.

Evidently, if Armenia is to solve its economic problems and emerge successfully from the difficult period of economic change, there is a need for all-round cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and regional powers such as the Islamic Republic of Iran. But these efforts will only be successful when existing political and security obstacles standing along the path of establishing peace and stability in the region are removed. Unfortunately, in the past, the outcome of the Islamic Republic of Iran's well-meant efforts to help find solutions to the Karabakh conflict and other regional problems have not been successful. This was because they were interpreted incorrectly and because of the opportunism and influence of some foreign powers.

In spite of this, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready, whenever favorable conditions arise, to resume its efforts toward resolving regional conflicts and to contribute to the economic expansion of the Republic of Armenia.

## Goals Seen Behind Turkish Operations in Iraq

*NC0405130195 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Apr 95 p 4*

[Staff Commentary: "Turkey's Logic and Objectives Behind Invading Iraq"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The right for self-determination is considered an essential principle in international law. This principle is guaranteed in the United Nations charter, frequently referred to in different resolutions.

When this right is applied to people of independent entity in internationally recognized borders, according to existing international law, the question of "sovereignty" is of high priority. Consequently, we come to the conclusion that the right of the Kurdish people for self-determination in northern Iraq and the Kurds in the south and southeastern Turkey directly contradicts the sovereignty of the two internationally recognized nations.

Observing the rights of different ethnic groups in Iraq and Turkey by their governments is essential to domestic stability.

Although Turkey has the prerogative to impose, enforce, and practice its jurisdiction over its ethnic groups, such as the Kurds, it can act only within its own national borders.

Turkey's transgression into Iraq with an immense military operation cannot be assessed as its legal prerogative. It cannot be justified.

What led Turkey to make use of such a massive military operation is based on the following:

1. Turkey has numerous economic and political problems. By invading Iraq it has tried to externalize its domestic problems, thus drawing international attention to its problems.

2. There is no doubt that the political environment in the region during the past few years has made guerrilla infiltration more complicated. The fear for the spread of infiltration of Kurds from northern Iraq and the expansion of their activities would leave a negative impact on Turkey. It was under such circumstances that Turkey decided to act militarily in order to achieve a long-term objective.

3. The sensitivity of the Turks in matters relating to the Iraqi regime may have led them to this decision. Although the military invasion in Iraq has attracted public attention toward resolving the long-lasting problem, it has also generated a lot of opposition from Europe and neighboring countries.

It has become obvious that the Turkish military invasion of northern Iraq has left a negative impact on its demand for membership in the European Union. This can have important consequences.

Of the 2 million Turks in Germany, approximately 450,000 are Kurds who are supporters of the Kurdish Labor Party. The military invasion will lead to the escalation of a serious encounter between the two ethnic groups, the Kurds and the Turks, in Germany.

Turkish politicians have opposed the withdrawal of the Turkish occupying forces after the mopping operation of the insurgent and infiltrating Kurdish elements.

The following are some of the adverse effects of the military invasion:

1. The heightening of the crisis which could lead Turkey into a domestic and foreign conflict.

2. It could lead to the deterioration of relations between Turkey and Iraq due to conflicting national interests.

3. Turkey could lose control of the situation.

4. It could create a wide gap between Turkey and its neighboring countries, igniting serious differences.

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5. It could have an adverse effect on Turkey's admission into the European Union.

The question arises as to how a Turkish military operation against the Kurds can be accepted when northern Iraq has been declared a safe zone?

The answer can be found in Turkey's relations with the United States. The whole affair can be seen as a political ploy.

The Turks are advised to resolve the problems of the minority Kurds within a domestic framework, and with the cooperation of internationally accepted border commissions of neighboring countries. Such a step will enhance stability and peace in the region.

## Officials Present Solutions to Inflation

### Majles Deputy Khamushi

*95LA0192A Tehran RESALAT (SUPPLEMENT) in Persian 27 Feb 95 pp 1, 15*

[FBIS Translated Text] Economics Division—To make up the budget deficit and alleviate the economic problems, the government's financial and administrative structure must be reduced, and the speed of the nation's economic growth and development must be reviewed.

RESALAT's economic affairs correspondent reports that Engineer Seyyed 'Alinaqi Khamushi, Majles deputy from Tehran and chief of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Mines, announced this last night at a meeting of the Student Islamic Society. He added: To the extent possible, government investment in projects must be stopped and the public must be encouraged to make these investments.

He also discussed the government's unbalanced budget. He said: In the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] Budget Bill submitted to the Majles, the budget for the government companies is larger than the government's current expense budget. If we want to solve the problems fundamentally, a review must be done of the government's current structure, and the annual budgets must also be balanced.

Continuing, the deputy from Tehran added: Some individuals say that the rate of inflation in the Second Five-Year Plan (the year 1374) will be kept at 12 percent. I doubt this, but of course I pray that it is correct.

The chief of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Mines emphasized that any country's economic prosperity is directly related to its capacity to produce. He said: If industry and the nation's productive sector prosper and do not have problems, society's economic problems will be solved. If, however, production is disrupted and problems are encountered, many economic problems will appear in society.

Emphasizing the industrial leap in the years since the triumph of the Islamic revolution, he said: Currently the nation's biggest industrial problem is the public unwillingness to invest in this sector. Some say that there is no economic security—this is true—and there is not enough investment support in the producing sector.

The chief of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Mines discussed the fact that currently investment in the industry sector is not economically viable. He said: According to the existing numbers and figures, the countries most successful with investment in the production sector are the ones with the highest ratios of public savings to gross national product.

In the Far Eastern nations, where there was an industrial leap in less than six or seven years and which will be considered among the world's industrialized nations in the future, this ratio is quite high. In our country, however, it is almost zero.

Continuing, the member of the Majles Industries and Mines Commission discussed the public's failure to save and make bank deposits. He said: In the economy of any society where saving money in the banks causes it to lose purchasing power, making deposits is meaningless. In this regard it must be said that the return or profit on a one-year deposit in the banking system is now 8 percent, while inflation is 34 percent. This is why the people prefer to convert their money to goods; it is the only option they have for preserving the value of their money.

Eng. Khamushi emphasized: When there is inflation in society, the only way to preserve the value of money is to make the profit on bank deposits higher than the rate of inflation.

He added: The government says it is applying a policy of contraction. In response it must be said that a policy of contraction is not dumping dollars and coins on the market in order to gather in the currency in circulation. Rather, this should be done by increasing the profits on banking deposits.

The deputy from Tehran said: Some think that "if the profit on bank deposits is increased, the fees on banking system loans will also have to be raised; if this happens the return on investments will not be desirable." They also think that to solve the problem inflation must be checked.

He said one of the important factors causing inflation in society is the government's budget deficit. He mentioned the government's borrowing from the banking system and said: This will inject powerful money into society, and when currency in circulation increases in society, inflation will also increase. In the first 10 months of the current year [21 March 1994-20 January 1995], currency in circulation was 32 percent and inflation has been said to be 34 percent until the end of the year [20 March 1995].

Eng. Khamushi emphasized the efforts made by officials to alleviate the nation's economic problems. He said: Economic problems are time-consuming and potent. Every cause has another effect. The country is now in an

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invisible economic embargo so that the world's economic doors are closed to us because of political positions.

Continuing, Eng. Khamushi answered various questions from the students. He said: He was asked who the main authority is for solving the nation's economic problems since all the officials are critical of the existing economic situation. He said: The lack of coordination between the decisionmaking centers and the executive authorities has caused some of the problems.

One of the students asked: Isn't the president of the republic responsible for coordinating the government organizations?

Eng. Khamushi answered: At this time he has been able to do that to some extent.

Another student asked: If the officials are not falling short, why is there extravagance and ostentation in the government organizations?

In answer, Eng. Khamushi said that the lack of financial order in the government organizations is a basic problem. He added: Some officials spend resources in the wrong places. In the Majles budget deliberations an effort has been made to create financial order in the budget and in the government organizations.

He also said: Unfortunately there is ostentation, but it exists in a limited number of organizations. The director of one of them was dealt with and dismissed while another director has pulled himself together.

One of those present asked: Where was this foreign debt spent? The deputy from Tehran said: They say that it was $40 billion, but that is not correct. The real figure is $35 to $36 billion, of which $10 billion is for goods that have not yet been imported. What has been spent is $26 billion.

Eng. Khamushi was asked about his opposition to the interpellation of the minister of mines and metals. He said: In those days, based on my sense of responsibility, I considered it my duty to defend management in general. I said that this had nothing to do with Mahluji or anyone else. Rather, I told them that what they were doing was denigrating management in the country.

He added: One of the reasons for the weakening of the production sector in the country is the loss of the figure of its director in the country.

The deputy from Tehran discussed the effects of the projects to sell shares in the Navab Project and the Rafah chain stores in an effort to draw in the currency in circulation in society. He said: I do not think the currency in circulation in society will be drawn in without diverting existing bank deposits to the purchase of stocks.

## Dr. Nurbakhsh

*95LA0192B Tehran RESALAT (SUPPLEMENT) in Persian 10 Mar 95 pp 1, 15*

[FBIS Translated Text] Economics Division—Next year, by controlling the rate of currency in circulation and making complementary decisions, we will see a desirable economic situation.

RESALAT's economic correspondent reports that Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, chief of the Central Bank, announced this last Thursday at the Second Meeting of Directors of Companies Accepted on the Stock Market. He said: In the years 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] and 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] we were faced with several important issues, including inflationary conditions, foreign exchange debt, and the shortage of raw materials, especially in the industrial sector.

He discussed the reasons for the nation's inflation. He said: If we look for the roots of inflation, we will come to a specific conclusion, which is the government's financial structure and the nation's budget situation. The effects of these problems were more sharply evident this year. He discussed the increased currency in circulation in the year 1372. He said: Increased currency in circulation at 34 to 35 percent, which created increased purchasing power in society, caused problems. In the past these problems were controlled through imports, the foreign exchange market, and the short-term sales market.

However, following the prohibition on the buying and selling of foreign exchange by unauthorized money changers and the advent of the government penalties projects, the currency in circulation departed from its main and traditional path and caused price increases on goods such as coins and foreign exchange.

With regard to controlling the increase of currency in circulation, he said: This year to some extent we have been able to reduce the increase in currency in circulation so that by the end of the current year [20 March 1995] the increase in currency in circulation will have decreased 10 percent compared to the year 1372.

Continuing, the chief of the Central Bank said another reason for the increased volume of currency in circulation is the reserve account for foreign exchange commitments. He added: This account, which is due to the change in the rate of the dollar from 70 rials [R] to R175, caused the volume of currency in circulation to increase. Decisions have been made on this, and accordingly increases in currency in circulation will be stopped next year.

He gave a positive assessment of the prohibition on the buying and selling of foreign exchange by unauthorized money changers. He said: Scarce and valuable foreign exchange resources must not be used to control currency in circulation. Rather, proper procedures must be adopted.

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In another part of his talk Dr. Nurbakhsh discussed our nation's foreign exchange debt. He said: In the past this problem has led our banking system outside the realm of banking activity, and the country has been faced with the problems of the lack of government insurance coverage in other countries and their unwillingness to accept our letters of credit. Currently, however, more than 95 percent of the debt repayments have been specifically rescheduled with the foreign parties.

Dr. Nurbakhsh added: With the normalization of the trade situation and the banking system's acceptance in other countries, we will be in better shape next year in terms of foreign trade.

Continuing, the chief of the Central Bank said: Some of the foreign exchange needed by producers of food and cleaning products has been obtained for next year. When the procedure is determined for the use of export foreign exchange, there will be no special problem getting foreign exchange for the other units.

He emphasized the need to expand capital markets, use new tools, and make investors understand them.

Dr. Nurbakhsh mentioned the nation's low level of savings as one of the reasons for inflation in the country. He added: As long as we continue not to depend on national savings for investment, growth, and development, we will be faced with inflationary conditions.

Based on the same report, Tehran mayor Gholamhosein Karbaschi gave a speech in which he discussed the sale of bonds to finance the Navab Project. He said: The Central Bank's initial guidelines are quite strict. If we want to make the bond market prosper and to control currency in circulation, there must be more courage.

Engineer Naji, deputy minister of industries for nonmetallic industries, was another speaker at this seminar. He said: When production units cannot export their products because of the needs of the domestic market, how can they depend on export foreign exchange?

He also discussed the existing problems in the industrial sector. He said: There are no guarantees concerning investment in the industrial sector, yet there is a 20-percent guarantee on investments in bonds.

As examples of important problems, he mentioned the lack of stability of most of the policies and factors pertaining to industry, the foreign exchange problems, the lack of an economic justification for new investments compared to old units, the high amount of investment in rotation, and the problems with currency in circulation.

Raja'i Soleymani, general manager of the stock market, also said: The failure to market shares in government units has caused increased demand and an increase in the stock price indicator, so that it is expected that by the end of the current year the stock price indicator will reach 700 units.

He discussed the fact that in the future public participation bonds will also be issued on the stock market. He said: The average cash return on stocks in the year 1372 was 22 percent. The highest returns were in the food industries, and the lowest returns were in the vehicle manufacturing industry.

## Inflation Rate in Cities

*95LA0192C Tehran RESALAT (SUPPLEMENT) in Persian 19 Feb 95 p 15*

[FBIS Translated Text] Economics Division—In the first nine months of the current year [21 March-21 December 1994] the average price indicator for consumer goods (the inflation rate) in the nation's urban areas has increased 32.9 percent compared to the same period the previous year.

Based on the report from the Central Bank's Office of Economic Statistics, the price indicator for consumer goods and services (the inflation rate) in the nation's urban areas reached 257.4 in the month of Azar 1373 [22 November-21 December 1994], an increase of 1.9 percent compared to the previous month. This indicator is 34.2 percent higher than the same month the previous year.

This report adds: In the month of Azar this year the price indicator for consumer goods and services increased 32.9 percent in the foods, beverages, and smoking materials group; 44.7 percent in the clothing group; 21.7 percent in the housing, fuel, and lighting group; 45.1 percent in the furniture and household goods and services group; 42.4 percent in the transportation, shipping, and communications group; 37.6 percent in the health care and treatment group; 46.9 percent in the recreation, study, and research group; and 38.8 percent in the miscellaneous goods and services group.

## *New Abadan, Khorramshahr Hospitals Completed

*95LA0162A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Feb 95 p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] Central News Unit—The construction of two hospitals in the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr has been completed, and they will go into operation soon.

Likewise the construction of two other hospitals in the cities of Molayer and Dalijan is near completion, and they will soon be turned over to the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education.

Mr Tafazoli, deputy minister of housing and urban development for hospital projects, said: Since the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], construction has begun on a total of 125 hospitals with 12,630 beds in various cities in the country, especially in the deprived areas. They will gradually be completed and be put into operation.

He said: Currently the construction of 2,000 hospital beds is 85 percent complete, and they will be put to use by the end of the year 1374 [20 March 1996].

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Mr Tafazoli discussed other government construction projects being carried out by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. He said: Currently construction is underway on 200 development and national projects with more than 2,000 billion rials in credits, including sports complexes, university and educational centers, and rehabilitation centers.

The deputy minister of housing and urban development for technical affairs also mentioned other great construction projects that are now under way in the country, including a large library, a complex for academies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Negarestan Cultural Center, and a center for the meeting of the heads of the member nations of the Islamic Conference Organization, to be held in Tehran in the year 1376 [21 March 1997-20 March 1998].

## Pakistan

### Government, Press Comment on U.S. Ban on Iran

#### Bhutto Regrets Ban

*BK0405161895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 4 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, May 4 (AFP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Thursday [4 May] said she regretted the imposition of US sanctions against Iran, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported.

"We have learnt with regret," of the US decision to impose a trade and investment embargo on Iran, APP quoted her saying.

Bhutto said the action would hamper efforts for the creation of a "propitious" atmosphere to resolve differences between Washington and Tehran.

Pakistan has always desired resolution of those differences though discussions and "consistently supported efforts" to create a conducive atmosphere for such a dialogue, she reportedly said.

The premier added that her country maintained a long-standing friendship with the United States and "age-old historic ties based on culture, traditions and religion with our brotherly neighbour Iran."

"It is our sincere hope that, in the interest of peace and stability in the region which has witnessed grave conflicts in recent years, the two countries address and resolve their differences amicably," she said.

Earlier, the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) of former premier Nawaz Sharif decribed the sanctions as "unfair and arbitrary."

A PML spokesman said the sanctions, announced Sunday by President Bill Clinton, were not only a "departure" from the norm of international relations but would prove "harmful" for the interests of the United States as well.

Citing the European Community's rejection of the "harsh" measures, the spokesman said it proved that America's Western allies considered the embargo as "unfair, arbitrary and unacceptable."

Clinton's call on Sunday to US allies also to join the embargo came as Washington accused Iran of supporting terrorism and seeking to develop nuclear weapons. Teheran has denied the charges.

The PML spokesman while urging the US to adopt a "conciliatory and sagacious" attitude so that tension could be removed from the world, also called upon the Pakistan government "to align itself with the conscience of the world" on the issue.

"Pakistan should not only reject the American sanctions but also abandon its current attitude towards Iran and consolidate traditional ties with the brotherly Moslem country," the party said.

#### Government Urged To Back Iran

*BK0405162795 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 4 May 95 p 10*

[Editorial: "U.S. Sanctions Against Iran—the Government Should Explain Its Stand"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has announced a trade embargo against Iran, under which no U.S. commercial firm will be able to have any sort of commercial dealings with Iran. Addressing the World Zionist [saihuni] Congress in Washington on Tuesday [2 May], the U.S. President severely criticized Iran, Syria, and Libya, calling them "rogues." President Clinton alleged that Iran is manufacturing nuclear weapons, harboring terrorists, and setting up terrorist bases in other countries.

Iran has rejected these U.S. allegations. During his talks with a delegation of students from Tehran University, Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran is prepared to face the U.S. sanctions. He expressed the hope that the sanctions imposed by the United States will harm the United States itself. A spokesman for the Iranian Government said there is apprehension of a U.S. attack on Iran following the announcement of these sanctions. Because of this, the Iranian armed forces have been asked to remain ready.

An "atmosphere similar to war" has prevailed since the collapse of the shah of Iran's regime and the establishment of the revolutionary Islamic government in Iran. This situation eased a little over the last few years, and the oil trade between the United States and Iran improved to a great extent. Most U.S. oil companies were purchasing oil from Iran to meet the requirements of the United States and Europe. After Iran's purchase of Russian submarines and acquisition of a Russian nuclear reactor a few months ago, President Clinton's government started paying more attention. The United States asked Russia not to provide the nuclear reactor to Iran, but Russian President Boris Yeltsin refused. After this,

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the Clinton administration toughened its stance further and the U.S. President openly announced: "We will teach the rogues a lesson." These "rogues" include Iran, Syria, and Libya.

Addressing the Jewish Congress, the U.S. President overtly stated that he would call his friends throughout the world and would exert pressure on them to impose economic sanctions against Iran "to straighten out Iran." It appears that the U.S. President may not get much support in this action against Iran. The European Union has refused to snap commercial ties with Iran, whereas Japan has said it will make a decision after careful consideration. Japan did put off a decision to provide a $540 million loan to Iran.

The U.S. decision to impose sanctions against Iran has provoked reaction throughout the world. The price of oil has increased in the U.S. and European markets. The United States may exert pressure on its allies, including Pakistan, to impose sanctions against Iran. We would like to caution the Pakistani Government not to be a party to the U.S. drive against Iran. It should officially condemn the U.S. "bullying" of this brotherly Muslim country. A policy of evasion and dilly-dallying will not be acceptable to the people of Pakistan. The government should openly announce its support for Iran.

### View on Allies' Refusing To Comply

*BK0305121395 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 3 May 95 p 10*

[Editorial: "U.S. Restrictions on Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States has decided to impose stringent restrictions on Iran, with trade with Iran topping the list. The United States has asked its allies to stop buying oil from Iran and suspend other trade transactions with it. Iran rejected the U.S. decision saying that the restrictions will not create any big problem. Iran has achieved self-sufficiency in a number of fields, making itself capable of meeting most of its needs without depending on external assistance. Meanwhile, seven countries including France, Germany, and Italy, have refused to accept the U.S. decision. They have trade relations with Iran which they do not want to terminate under any circumstances.

Russia has declared that it will adhere to its decision to supply a nuclear reactor to Iran and said that the reactor will be installed under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency and it will be used for peaceful and constructive purposes. If the industrialized countries stop or cut down their purchase of oil from Iran then it will definitely affect oil prices in the global market. The United States has declared Iran a terrorist state. President Clinton will clarify the U.S. policy on Iran within the next two or three days.

Indications reveal that the U.S. allies are unwilling to bear the financial losses by suspending trade ties with Iran. Given the situation, they will have to strive to reduce the tension between the United States and Iran. It is hoped that the situation will improve if the United States agrees to release confiscated Iranian assets.

### Editorial: U.S. Must Reconsider

*BK0505080195 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 May 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "US embargo against Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Clinton Administration's decision to clamp a trade and investment embargo on Iran has come in the wake of an intense propaganda campaign by the Jewish-controlled American media in recent months which portrayed Tehran as the biggest obstacle to stability in the Middle East. The embargo comes only a few days after President Clinton termed Iran as "the biggest threat to peace." In response to the American decision, President Rafsanjani of Iran has observed that the embargo will hurt US interests more than those of Tehran because in a world which has a pressing need for energy resources, "Iran cannot be shut out the world markets." The US measure has not only been opposed by the European Union but also by Japan and they have all distanced themselves from any such move against Iran. In a related development, Moscow has rejected a US appeal not to go ahead with its plan to supply Teheran with a nuclear reactor. Beijing too has evinced a similar resistance to the American pressure to block possible cooperation between China and Iran in the nuclear field.

The US Administration has never made a secret of its concern over the alleged Iranian plan to build a nuclear bomb. This US perception has gained considerate strength following the Russia-Iran nuclear reactor deal. Washington perceives Iran as a rogue state out to destabilise regional and international peace. And the Administration high-ups have minced no words in putting the message across. But the US step lacks any rationale or credibility, as no solid proof exists to sustain the allegations against Iran that it is planning to build a nuclear weapon or that it is sponsoring terrorism. The US embargo also exposes the double standards applied by Washington in its two-pronged offensive worldwide against nuclear proliferation and the rising wave of terrorism. Israel, which is known to possess a huge stockpile of nuclear bombs and which has never been averse to applying terrorist tactics against the Arab states, has tacitly been allowed by Washington to pursue its militaristic goals in the region. Ironically, Tel Aviv remains the largest recipient of American military and economic assistance and also a close trading partner of Washington. Needless to say, inter-state relations cannot be conducted on the basis of a jaundiced view of things obtained from a narrow angle. Naked discrimination and injustice only stiffen resolve of states which jealously guard their sovereignty and national independence. There is an urgent need for Washington to reconsider its decision to slap trade and investment embargo on Iran.

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